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# ARAB TIMES

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NO. 7715 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1989/RABI'UL THANI 15, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS

## Kuwait acquits actors

KUWAIT, Nov 13. (Agencies): The Court of Misdemeanours today acquitted three actors and withheld verdict on a fourth charged with disgracing Islam and committing shameful acts during a theatrical show.

Khaled Al Nafisi, Saad Al Faraj and Mohammed Al Siray were acquitted of the charges filed against them by the state prosecution while Abdul Hussein Abdul Rida was ordered to pay a bail of KD500 with a one year pledge of good conduct.

The first three actors were accused by the state prosecution of publicly broadcasting opinions that

embodied disgrace and casting doubts on the Islamic creed. Abdul Rida was accused of producing a shameful act in a public place.

The controversial play was named "Hatha Saifou," a nickname for a useless and unchanged person.

Justice Fuad Al Zuaid outlined the need for the theatre for spreading culture as the most effective and useful means but warned that such a goal could only be achieved through objectivity.

"If we want to expand in spreading theatrical culture, we caution that if we throw open our doors

and windows to allow entrance of human legacy, that does not mean to leave those doors parted for harm and poisoned air," he said.

The play aroused a big controversy and actors were accused of deviating from the original script approved by the Information Ministry. Censors of the Information Ministry testified during the interrogations undertaken by the public prosecution, that the four actors deviated from the script and said statements and words against Islam. They were quoted as saying "bad words" against the mulla (clergyman).

## Egypt probes expat deaths

CAIRO, Nov 13. (AP): Autopsies have been ordered on Egyptian corpses flown home from Iraq to determine the cause of an unprecedentedly sharp increase in their number, a senior security official said.

About 100 bodies reportedly were repatriated in October, "three or four" a day, said the Cairo international airport official. Normally, the monthly average has been two or three, he said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not say when the increase began, but a published report fixed it at the start of October.

The order for new autopsies on arrivals from Iraq resulted from an inter-departmental investigation involving the Foreign Ministry, security authorities and other government agencies that has been under way, the source said.

He said the airport's quarantine officials and other medical authorities were told to ascertain whether the causes of death agree with the ones stated on official Iraqi certificates accompanying bodies. He would not discuss causes on the Iraqi documents.

But in the first report of the increase, the state-owned Cairo newspaper Al-Akhar said the Iraqi certificates initially attributed death to "bullet wounds" and later switched to other formulas like "killed in an accident" or "died in butane gas cylinder explosion."

While refusing to speculate about the sharp rise in repatriation of remains in recent weeks, the security official said he does not think the death rate among Egyptians it represents is inordinately high compared to Egypt's overall rate.

"I cannot say anything about the causes of these deaths," he told a reporter, "but to my mind, the rate does not assume the dimensions of a phenomenon."

More than one million Egyptians work in Iraq, many in agriculture. Some volunteered for military service during the eight-year war between Iraq and neighbouring Iran, ended by ceasefire in August 1988.

Egypt's top demographer, Maher Mahran, who heads the national population council, says the country's crude death rate is nearer 1,000. This would appear to make a one-month figure of about 100 Egyptian dead in Iraq statistically reasonable.

But it leaves unexplained the reason for the sharp increase from previous low monthly levels. Al-Akhar's report on the increase set the number of

(Continued on Page 2)

**Weather**

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light to moderate south-easterly wind and a chance for scattered rain.

State of sea: Moderate

High water: 1.00 am, 11.30 pm  
 Low water: 6.30 am, 6.30 pm

Sunrise: 6.11 am  
 Sunset: 4.53 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:  
 Kuwait: 23°C 73°F  
 Bahrain: 23°C 73°F  
 Riyadh: 23°C 73°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:  
 Kuwait: 20°C 68°F  
 Bahrain: 20°C 68°F  
 Riyadh: 20°C 68°F

Maximum temperatures expected:  
 Kuwait: 23°C 73°F  
 Bahrain: 23°C 73°F  
 Riyadh: 23°C 73°F

Minimum temperatures expected:  
 Kuwait: 20°C 68°F  
 Bahrain: 20°C 68°F  
 Riyadh: 20°C 68°F

Maximum humidity recorded:  
 Kuwait: 73 per cent  
 Bahrain: 88 per cent  
 Riyadh: 85 per cent



United again

A father and son are reunited at the newly-opened Wollank Street border crossing in Berlin. The son is a

West Berlin resident and his father came across from East Berlin yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Hoss named prime minister

Aoun rejects

BEIRUT, Nov 13. (AP): President Rene Muawad named veteran Muslim politician Salim Hoss as Prime Minister today to form a government charged with ending Lebanon's civil war, but Christian Gen. Michel Aoun rejected the appointment.

"This will be an unconstitutional government. It will not be a national reconciliation government. It will represent one side," Aoun said.

"Even if the whole world recognizes it, Hoss' government will be a government operating in the shadow of Syrian occupation," Aoun said in an interview with the Associated Press.



Hoss

"Governments cannot survive only on foreign recognition. People topple governments," said the general, who was interviewed at the bunker of his shell-wrecked presidential palace in suburban Baabda, east of Beirut.

Aoun, dressed in camouflage fatigues and two pistol-equipped bodyguards standing behind him, said whatever decisions adopted by Hoss' cabinet "will be illegal."

Aoun made his comments a few hours after Muawad announced his choice. Staccato bursts of gunfire interspersed by shell blasts echoed through the capital as Muawad spoke at his temporary headquarters in the prime minister's office in West Beirut.

Police said Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen clashed with Aoun's mainly Christian units across Beirut's dividing Green Line, but no casualties were reported from the 10-minute flareup.

Each side accused the other of

starting the clash, a grim reminder of the fragility of the ceasefire that was called by the Arab League Sept 22 to halt six months of fierce artillery battles between Aoun's troops and the Syrian army.

Muawad, 64, a Maronite Catholic, designated Hoss, 59, a Sunni Muslim banker-turned-politician after three days of consultations with Parliament bloc leaders.

Hoss accepted his fourth premiership in 13 years, saying the new government, the 55th since Lebanon gained independence from France in 1943, would implement an Arab-brokered peace accord that provides for equal power sharing between Muslims and Christians.

Muawad, flanked by Hoss and Shiite Muslim Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein, received in audience some 30 foreign ambassadors based in Lebanon, with the exception of the US and Iranian envoys.

## Ahmad to represent Khamenei

NICOSIA, Nov 13. (AP): Iran's spiritual leader appointed the son of the late Ayatollah Khomeini as one of his representatives in the newly formed supreme National Security Council today, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, said Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Ahmad Khomeini and Hassan Rowhani to represent him in the council, for a term of three years.

The council is charged with overseeing defence and state security policy, as well as coordinating the activities of various defence and intelligence bodies.

According to the constitution, the council is under the jurisdiction of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, a so-called pragmatist opposed by the rival radical camp.

The President in September appointed Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri to head the council. Last month he asked Rowhani, who previously headed the parliamentary defence committee, to help set up the new security council.

Rafsanjani, elected last July, has been trying to overhaul the government to weed out radicals who oppose his liberal policies.

The 56-year-old president believes in easing the government's stranglehold on the economy, encouraging foreign investment to boost the sluggish economy, and moderating Iran's radical image abroad.

But his rivals in the radical camp, headed by Ahmad Khomeini and former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, regard such changes as anathema.

## OIC calls boycott of IBM for computer sale to Israel

JEDDAH, Nov 13. (AP): The 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference has asked all its member states to boycott US company IBM for allegedly supplying Israel with computer technology to help it manufacture hydrogen bomb.

An IOC statement said the American computer company, International Business Machines, "was participating in the production of an advanced computer system for Israel that will be used in its hydrogen bomb project and which will also help in Israel's

long and medium-range missiles."

The statement did not explain what led the organisation to believe the deal has been concluded. There have been reports that IBM was only studying an Israeli request for the purchase of sophisticated computers for academic purposes.

The OIC statement from the Jeddah-based organisation said "such a serious act" will jeopardise the peace process in the Middle East as well as international peace and security.

"While denouncing the support provided by the IBM to the Israeli warfare, the OIC asks all its members to strictly apply the Islamic boycott rules against foreign companies supporting Israel by arms or ammunition or any other equipment that might benefit its war efforts."

The OIC has been emulating the pattern of the 22-member Arab League in drawing up a blacklist of foreign companies whose dealings with Israel help prop up the Jewish state's economy or military effort.

## Benazir cabinet quits en masse

Move to pave way for new government

Arab Times report

ISLAMABAD, Nov 13: Pakistan's entire federal cabinet resigned today to give Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a free hand to form a new government, Arab Times learnt from Pakistan.

An official spokesman confirmed the cabinet's resignation but reliable sources told Arab Times that Benazir has not accepted the resignation.

Benazir, who narrowly survived an opposition no-confidence motion in parliament last week had later said she wanted to

Official sources said Benazir had taken no final decision yet about accepting the resignations but a cabinet reshuffle was likely within two or three days.

Benazir took office last December as the first woman prime minister of a Muslim nation after her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged the largest single party in elections following 11 years of military rule of late president General Zia-ul-Haq.

Zia, who overthrew Benazir's father in 1977 and had him hanged two years later, died in a plane crash in August 1988.

The Benazir party claims about 111 seats in the federal legislature but rules mainly with the help of independents.

Official sources said the resignation offers were mainly a formality, but that several advisers and special assistants were likely to go in a cabinet reshuffle.

I will make changes in the cabinet at a suitable time," Benazir was quoted as saying by Pakistan television.

Sources told Arab Times on telephone the move was in response to criticism by the opposition that the prime minister, during 11 months in power, has surrounded herself with officials who have alienated members of her own party.

"They have tendered their resignations to enable her to form her own strategy and the future shape of her government," the source who requested anonymity told Arab Times.

The lower-level appointees offered to resign from posts in such areas as national security, political affairs and finance.

An official source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he expected the prime minister to accept all 12 resignations of advisers but some of them might be re-assigned to other government posts.

Benazir had promised changes in her left-leaning government following a parliamentary no-

(L) Peng visiting

Pakistan — Page 6

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Death of a legend

Legendary Spanish Communist Party leader Dolores Barrun 'La Pasionaria' died in a Madrid hospital on Sunday. The heroine of Spain's civil war was 89 years old. (Reuter wirephoto)

(See also Page 5)

## 'Top' Lanka rebel killed

COLOMBO, Nov 13. (Agencies): A Sinhalese rebel leader was shot and killed today after he was captured and had made a videotaped appeal for peace, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said.

A politician considered sympathetic to the rebel movement said Sinhalese radicals would be sceptical of the government's version of Rohana Wijeweera's death, and predicted it could lead to more violence.

Wijeweera, leader of the Sinhalese extremist People's Liberation Front, was captured yesterday and led soldiers to his group's Colombo headquarters. There he instructed Front Politburo member H.B. Herath to hand over some documents, the foreign minister said.

Herath pretended to do so but instead pulled a gun and fired at Wijeweera. Government forces then opened fire, killing both Wijeweera and Herath, the minister said.

Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister, said Wijeweera and Herath were cremated under emergency regulations which allow security forces to dispose of bodies without a post mortem. President Ranasinghe Premadasa has ordered an inquiry into the shooting.

Wijeweera was captured along with his wife and five children in the central district of Kandy. Wijeratne said. He was brought to Colombo, where he co-operated with interrogators and voluntarily videotaped a speech appealing for peace, the minister said.

A political leader considered sympathetic to the People's Liberation Front predicted Wijeweera's death would lead to more violence.

"The killing, if it is true, will certainly escalate violence in the country because you can kill a man but not an ideology," said Samuel Dias Bandaranaike, leader of the Sri Lanka Progressive Front, which is widely believed to have ties with the People's Liberation Front.

"The people will not believe the government's version of the killing of Wijeweera," he said. "The killing took place after President Premadasa repeatedly guaranteed his personal safety."

Premadasa has made repeated overtures to Wijeweera and the Front to cease violence and open talks with the government, but the offers have been rejected.

The government sources, speaking under the condition of anonymity, said Wijeweera and an unknown number of followers were captured in a pre-dawn raid by commands of the army's elite rapid deployment force on the Gampola tea estate.

"In a confrontation, he was shot dead," said one source, declining to elaborate.

Among the prisoners were two JVP politburo members — Piyadasa Ranasinghe, the group's military co-ordinator for

(Continued on Page 2)

broaden the base of the government by offering cabinet seats to moderate opposition deputies.

Altogether 46 top officials, including ministers and advisers handed her their resignations at a cabinet meeting today and expressed "full confidence" in her leadership, the state-run television later tonight said.

The ministers said in their en masse resignation expressed full confidence in Benazir's leadership saying that they are not power-hungry and were ready to serve the party as simple workers.

"On the occasion, they referred to the past difficult circumstances and praised the candid and sagacious leadership of the prime minister," it said.

## Gandhi skirts fresh scandal

Temple flames denounced

NEW DELHI, Nov 13. (Agencies): India's opposition Janata Dal Party, seeking to overturn Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in this month's election, leapt on a new corruption charge against the government today but was promptly rebuffed when it demanded a thorough inquiry.

The source of the new charge was Stockholm's Express newspaper, which quoted the former head of an Austrian arms company as saying it paid \$40 million in commissions to Indians while chasing a contract that went to Sweden's Bofors.

Charges that Bofors paid huge bribes to supply artillery to the Indian Army is a main opposition weapon in the Indian election campaign.

A spokesman for the ruling Congress Party denied the new charge and said the newspaper report, reprinted in the virulently anti-Rajiv Indian Express, did not deserve any comment.

Express said it was told by Peter Unterwiesing, former head of Austria's Voest-Alpine, that the company had paid bribes. Unterwiesing faces trial on charges of making illegal payments, mainly on arms and ammunition sales to Iran and Iraq.

"This is entirely a new scandal bur-

sting upon the country and the Janata Dal demands that the government investigating agencies make a thorough probe to establish the truth," party spokesman Yashwant Sinha told reporters.

Express quoted Unterwiesing as saying of the attempt to get the Indian contract: "There was not a single day when someone did not come to me asking for money."

"It was not politicians themselves who came. It was persons whom the politicians could trust who made these proposals."

Rajiv and Bofors deny any bribes were paid and the evidence against the government has been circumstantial, but the opposition charges have put the Indian leader on the defensive.

Rajiv is also on the defensive over the threat of Hindu-Muslim violence looming over the elections on November 22, 24 and 26.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Iran have all expressed concern over the root cause of the violence in which several hundred people have been killed — a project by Hindu fundamentalists to build a temple next to a mosque.

India's 100-million-strong

(Continued on Page 2)



Siege in Salvador

Members of the Salvadoran emergency rescue units hit the ground during heavy combat in one of the numerous areas of the capital that were heavily hit during a major guerrilla offensive. Scores have been wounded in the actions. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Modrow elected as E. German Premier

EAST BERLIN, Nov 13. (Reuter): East Germany's Parliament, shedding its rubber-stamp image, elected reformist Politburo member Hans Modrow as prime minister today and blasted its outgoing communist leaders for incompetence.

Modrow replaced the dour Willi Stoph, who earlier went to the podium to admit that his government had not been up to the job.

After his election, in which only one vote was cast against him in a show of hands, Modrow told reporters in the chamber: "The country must function. We must all work hard."

Of his new post he said: "I know that it will be a tough job." Buoyed by their first secret ballot, which unexpectedly voted in Farmers' Party leader Guen-

ther Maleuda as Speaker of Parliament, deputies cast aside their traditional image and plunged into a noisy debate, televised live.

Finance Minister Ernst Hoefner was shouted down as he tried to defend his handling of the economy. He was forced to return to the podium to answer more angry questions.

Stoph said his government had failed to justify its actions to Parliament and submit proposals for solving the country's problems.

In an extraordinary admission, he admitted that decisions taken by Communist Party leaders had adversely affected economic development.

See Page 5

مكتبة النور



## Gandhi skirts scandal

(Continued from Page 1)

Muslim minority blames Rajiv's government for causing the unrest by refusing to halt stone-laying ceremonies for the temple in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya last week.

"Bangladesh is worried over the reports of desecration of the historic mosque and wants an immediate end to such attempts," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Rajiv accused foreign radio stations today of stirring up the Hindu-Muslim violence looming over next week's Indian elections and told foreign countries it was none of their business.

"Some foreign radios" were fomenting trouble by spreading rumours, Rajiv said during campaigning in the crucial northern heartland, where several hundred people have been killed in religious violence. In the key state of Uttar Pradesh, Rajiv criticised worried statements by several Muslim countries over the root cause of the violence—a project by Hindu fundamentalists to build a temple next to a mosque.

The Pakistan Foreign Ministry summoned India's ambassador today to express Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's concern at plans by Indian Hindus to build the temple at a site held sacred by Muslims.

A descendant of Indian independence leader Mahatma K. (Mahatma) Gandhi said today he disapproved of his uncle running against Rajiv in the next week's general elections.

Yogesh Kothari Gandhi told a news conference his uncle, Raj Mohan Gandhi, was "being used by a political party abusing the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi."

Castan Fernandes was a sick old man when he died but his body was exhumed today, a week after burial, to find out whether he was part of an election plot.

Fernandes was nominated to run for parliament in next week's Indian elections in the western state of Goa and his death, as the rules demand, caused the vote to be suspended.

The Press Trust of India (PTI), which did not give Fernandes' age, quoted Goa officials as saying they believed someone else filed his nomination papers, knowing he was dying, in a bid to delay the election.

At least 72 Indian coal miners were trapped when a pit caved in today and millions of gallons of water gushed in, officials said.

The miners were trapped 400 feet (150 metres) below ground at Rajni Guni, and rescue efforts were being hampered by the water, a spokesman for the West Bengal state government said.

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## Indian election results? Anybody's guess this time

By Thomas Abraham  
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: Whenever you go in India these days, all conversation invariably revolves around one question: "Who will win this month's general elections?"

It is not a question easily answered, given the complexities of Indian politics and the hundreds of variables and unknown quantities.

But the fact is that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who rode to power on the crest of an unprecedented "sympathy wave" five years ago (the 1984 elections were held

weeks after his mother and predecessor Indira Gandhi was assassinated) is fighting for a second term in office with his back to the wall.

Much water has flown down the Ganges and the Cauvery in the last five years. And gone is the euphoria that marked the first few months of Rajiv's tenure. At that time he was the "Mr Clean" of Indian politics, a young man determined to set right all that was wrong with the system.

This time, Rajiv has to contend with charges of personal corruption (some of which has been proved) and accusation of failures on the part of his government, a debatable

point in the absence of any yardsticks.

But Indian elections are more often decided on the image and charisma of the personalities involved than on any major issue. This time, the opposition seems to have a rallying point in V.P. Singh, a former defence minister in Rajiv's cabinet, and if issues were needed, there appear to be two: corruption and communalism.

Singh has in the last two years managed to create an image of an ardent crusader against corruption in high places and charges of similar nature against him have just not stuck. Recent incidents in Bhopal and the controversy surrounding the four-

day stone-laying ceremony of a temple in Ayodhya have threatened to disrupt communal harmony in the country, with different political parties blaming each other for the dispute.

But to return to the main question, what will be the outcome of the elections? Psychologists in India have yet to get into action and the few astrologers who have ventured to make a prediction are divided among themselves. Political observers keep changing their assessment with every passing day.

In political circles, all kinds of predictions are being made, from an outright win for

One scenario that is being widely discussed is that the National Front, a coalition of opposition parties, may not get enough seats for a comfortable majority and might be open to the idea of a "national government" in alliance with the Congress minus Rajiv.

There seems to be near unanimity on one point, and that is Rajiv can not return to power with the kind of majority he got in 1984. Many political observers, however, hold out the strong possibility that he could still get a second term, with a largely reduced majority, say about 280 seats in the 545-member Lok Sabha (lower house).

But when you look at the larger scenario

what emerges is a confusing picture. There are far too many questions that beg for answers. For instance, which way will the youth between the ages of 18 and 21, given the franchise for the first time, vote? Or, will the Congress' traditional vote banks among the minorities and the backward classes switch loyalties this time?

Then again, what will be the impact of the support announced by the Shiah Imam of the Jama Masjid for the Janata Dal? Will the Congress promise of "power to the people" through devolution of power to local government bodies, carry any weight?



### Bonded children

More than 200 bonded children protest in New Delhi against what they said were a wastage of three billion rupees (\$178 m) on the celebration

of the 100th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Pak opposition plans no new move

(Continued from Page 1)

confidence motion on Nov 1. It fell just 12 votes short of a majority in the 237-seat National Assembly.

Hef mainly right-wing opposition—in addition to some members of her own party—accused her government of ineffectiveness and cronyism.

Apparently shaken, Benazir,

36, said she would purge her government of controversial figures and reach out to what she termed "moderate elements" of her mainly right-wing political opposition.

On Saturday, she took one portfolio from a minister implicated in a murder case and added three former members of her parliamentary opposition to the cabinet.

All three had at first supported, then abandoned, the no-confidence motion.

Opposition leaders at a week-end meeting in the southwestern city of Quetta criticised Benazir for approaching individual lawmakers instead of the combined opposition, which is dominated by the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance.

"The individual contacts are a

conspiracy aimed at creating an atmosphere of disruption and mistrust in the ranks of the opposition," they said in a joint statement.

However, they backed down on a threat to move another no-confidence vote against the government in the near future.

The leader of Pakistan's Combined Opposition Parties (COP) Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that no plan was being prepared to table no-confidence motion against the government.

He told a news conference that it was not necessary to move fresh no-confidence motion. Several other leaders of opposition were also present at the press conference.

Nearly all the leaders of opposition held a two-day meeting in Quetta to chalk out a plan against the federal government. They had gathered at the invitation of Baluchistan's Chief Minister Nawab Akbar Bugti.

The group had failed to move a no-confidence motion but some of the major opposition leaders had then said that they would again move a no-confidence motion.

Jatoi told newsmen that other means would be used to confront the federal government. These, he said included holding public meetings to seek the support of the masses. The first two of such meetings would be held on Nov 19 and 20 in the Punjab province. The programme for other meetings would be decided by Nov 26, he said.

Public meetings constitute a very important part of Pakistani politics, the political parties strive to show their strength by the number of supporters present at the meeting.

The COP leaders told newsmen that they would not have any agreement with the government unless it withdrew all anti-Islamic laws from the country.

They also criticised the government for trying to contact the opposition leaders individually and added this was being done to create disunity among their ranks.

In another development, the Pashtoonkhuwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP) yesterday took out processions and hoisted black flags in Quetta to protest against COP meeting.

### 'Miracle cure'

LONDON, Nov 13 (Kuna): Scientists said they have found a "miracle cure" for the fatal disease, multiple sclerosis, it was reported here today.

A test vaccine and treatment for the crippling disease, which afflicts 50,000 Britons could be available within two years.

The British media quoted professor Rob Cook, as saying the breakthrough came when he identified the cause of the disease as a virus in the brain.

The illness attacks the central nervous system, causing anything from speech impairment to total paralysis.

Most researchers thought the illness was caused by a fault in the body's auto-immune system.

## Aquino hopes for economic recovery

MANILA, Nov 13, (AP):

President Corason Aquino returned today from Canada and the United States optimistic about the prospects of increasing foreign investment to bolster her nation's debt-ravaged economy.

Aquino, who arrived aboard a scheduled Philippine Airlines flight from Los Angeles, said she had persuaded Canadian and US businessmen that the Philippines is stable.

"I believe that I have succeeded in impressing upon them the long-term stability of our country and the permanence of our political institutions," she said on arrival at Ninoy Aquino International airport.

Referring to the political turmoil in communist Eastern Europe, Aquino added: "What stood out, however, in the trip was the universal conviction that was made at every official function between the startling and hopeful events in Central Europe and what will be the Philippines' most remembered contribution to mankind—the 'people power revolution' which continues to reverberate around the world."

Aquino was swept to power in the "people power revolution," a February 1986 popular uprising that toppled the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

During the trip, which began Nov 4, Aquino visited the Canadian cities of Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa, and the US cities of New York, Washington, Dallas and Los Angeles.

At every stop, she met representatives of US and Canadian businesses to encourage investment and seek relief from the country's \$28-billion foreign debt.

She said Canada would send a trade delegation to the Philippines in February and had pledged \$127 million in economic assistance. In New York, she also arranged the rescheduling of \$6.6 million of the Philippine foreign debt.

Aquino said he talks with President George Bush and other US officials in Washington gave them "a deeper appreciation of our achievements and of our requirements for further economic development."

During her meetings with Bush last Thursday, Aquino gave no indication whether she will support an extension of the lease on the six US military bases in the Philippines, which expires in Sept 1991.

US and Filipino negotiators are to begin exploratory talks on a new agreement next month. Any agreement must be approved by two-thirds of the 23-member Philippine Senate, where anti-base sentiment is strong.

She also visited Dallas, Texas, to encourage the sale of Philippine products by J.C. Penney Co. Inc. and to seek help from US petroleum giants in exploring for oil and natural gas in the Philippines.

In Los Angeles, Aquino joined about 800 people at a Roman Catholic mass late Saturday at St Basil's Cathedral and in a brief address sought Americans' help in bolstering her nation's struggling economy.

"I must say I am overwhelmed by the continued warmth for myself and my organization," Aquino told churchgoers, speaking in English and in Tagalog.

## Killer of US priest jailed

KORONADAL, Philippines,

Nov 13, (Reuters): A militant American priest in the southern Philippines last year was given a prison term of up to 12 years today, a provincial judge said.

South Cotabato provincial judge Rodolfo Soledad said Sagin Monday, 28, was found guilty of homicide in the death of Father Carl Schmitz on April 7 last year.

In testimony, Monday said he shot Schmitz after the 72-year-old priest punched him in the face following a heated argument at his home in Koronadal, about 980 kms (600 miles) southeast of Manila.

The American priest was the head of the Passionist Order in the province and had been living in the area for 10 years.

## Yes or no, war in fate

### Filipino referendum

UKANG GOMBAHADI, a councillor in the rebel-controlled village of Danag, sums up the dilemma of his people on the Nov 19 plebiscite on a proposed Muslim autonomous region in the southern Philippines.

"If we vote yes, there will be war," he said. "If we vote no, there will be war."

Gombahadi, 65, a retired government worker, asked recent visitors from Manila, "what shall we do?"

For the government of President Corason Aquino, the plebiscite would be a step toward resolving a second war—the Muslim separatist insurgency that many regard as more complex and intractable than the 20-year communist rebellion in the north.

Arab nations belonging to the influential Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), on which the Philippines is dependent for oil, are closely watching the Filipino Muslim situation.

Officials in Manila, 600 miles (1,000 km) to the north, are determined to show the vote will reflect the sentiment in 13 provinces and nine cities comprising the proposed autonomous region.

Hopefully, the result will prevent further support from the Arabs for the Muslim separatists, the officials say.

Aquino has made two trips to the southern island of Mindanao in a bid to drum up interest in the polling, which has elicited little enthusiasm in the region that is home to some 3.5 million indigenous Muslims.

The leader of 60 million Filipinos, mostly Roman Catholic, wants residents to go out and vote, but has studiously refrained from categorically saying she is for or against the proposal.

However, in taped message regularly aired on radio and television, Aquino says the creation of an autonomous region will bring about "peace and prosperity."

By publicly taking a neutral stand, Aquino hopes to continue a dialogue with the separatist Moro National Liberation

Front and preserve a shaky ceasefire she had forged in September 1986.

Aquino travelled to Jolo, talks with Moro Front leader Nur Misuari in a bid to end the Muslim rebellion that killed more than 100,000 people since it erupted in the 1970s.

Misuari, who is based in Saudi Arabia, is urging a boycott of the plebiscite and is threatening to disrupt the vote.

The Moro Front wants an outright grant of autonomy in accordance with the 1976 Tripoli accords hammered out under the auspices of the 42-member Islamic conference, as well as a separate army.

It has vowed to carry on the war for independence.

The government wants limited self-rule in the region; but more decentralized administration, particularly of development resources.

The OIC has acknowledged the Muslim separatist problem is an internal Philippine problem and has said it will not allow violence on either side.

Officials hope a large number of the nearly 4 million registered voters, 30 per cent Muslims, will cast ballots and repudiate Misuari and his guerrillas.

The 19,000-strong Moro Front is headquartered in Jolo and practically controls the tiny, palm-covered island, except for the capital town, which is tightly guarded by military encampments.

At a briefing for visiting Defence Secretary Fidel Ramo, an Army battalion commander, Maj. Renato Miranda, described a grim scenario for Jolo, once the seat of the powerful Sulu Sultanate whose dominion included what is now the Malaysian state of Sabah.

"I hate to say it, sir, but we're losing," said Miranda, referring to the war for the hearts and minds of the Muslims. He blamed this on corruption among local officials and the lack of government presence in the island where poverty is pervasive.

## Journalists probed

### Bribing Palme investigators

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Nov.

13, (AP): A prosecutor is investigating allegations that journalists tried to bribe police probing the 1986 murder of Premier Olof Palme, news reports said today.

Chief prosecutor Per-Hakan Bondestam said a preliminary investigation indicated journalists offered police money or other bribes for classified documents, the national news agency TT and the national radio said.

Palme's widow Lisbeth Palme, in her first interview since the murder, recently criticised journalists for buying information from police officers. She claimed one investigator was offered a year's full pay in exchange for

documents.

Mrs Palme, in the television interview, said the police investigation was full of leaks and said media had hampered the investigation by publishing the information.

TT quoted Bondestam as saying there was no indication police had accepted bribes, but said several policemen had offered to testify about journalists trying to bribe them.

"There can have been several cases. There has been indications of that," he was quoted as saying. Palme was shot to death on a late night stroll in central Stockholm on Feb 28, 1986.

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## Bucks before you marry

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, Nov 13, (UPI): Young adults in the United States have not been putting off marriage in order to lead swinging lifestyles, they are simply waiting until they are financially secure, a Brown University researcher has said.

"Everyone thinks people are not getting married because they have rejected the institution of marriage. But when we looked at an analysis of when kids got married, we found money to be the major factor," sociology professor Francis Goldscheider said.

Although divorce rates are high in the United States and the structure of the traditional family has changed, people are still getting married at the same rate as in the past, Goldscheider said.

"I don't think the family as an institution is decaying, it really needs some help from the economy," she said. "We can look back to the great depression of the 1930s and we see the same kind of situation. Young people put off getting married because they had no money. Many of them waited until after World War II and that actually contributed to the baby boom."

Goldscheider's study focused on why and when young adults leave home. The two paths out are marriage or simply moving out to a new home or apartment.

She found that young adults who have high incomes are the most likely to get married, while those who have the strongest educational background are likely to leave home unmarried.

Those who have strong traditional backgrounds, such as Catholics, Southeast Asians, Jews and other ethnic groups tend to live with parents longer and leave home only when they turn 25, she said.

"Although our research cannot tell exactly why people leave home when they do, we can tell that if you're unmarried because you can live with five other people and keep costs down," she said.

## Hammer at home resting

LOS ANGELES, Nov 13, (AP): Industrialist Armand Hammer has gone home, two days after the 91-year-old chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp. received a heart pacemaker at UCLA Medical Center.

"He is at home now and he feels great. He expects to be back in the office tomorrow," said Occidental spokesman Frank Ashley. His condition was described as good yesterday.

Hammer, who has had heart trouble for more than 20 years, received the pacemaker on Friday.

## Ashkenazy makes triumphant return to homeland

MOSCOW, Nov 13, (AP): Vladimir Ashkenazy was cheered yesterday at the Moscow Academy where he once studied as he conducted Britain's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the return to his homeland he had not seen for 26 years.

Shouts of "bravo, bravo," rang through the grand hall of the Moscow conservatory as the orchestra finished a programme that included works by Russian composers Mussorgsky, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky.

Ashkenazy, a student at the conservatory

when he shared the top prize in the 1962 Tchaikovsky piano competition, beamed and joined briefly in the crowd's rhythmic applause.

The programme was the second of two charity concerts by Ashkenazy and the Royal Philharmonic. Proceeds will help restore cultural monuments destroyed in last December's earthquake in the southern Soviet republic of Armenia. About 25,000 people were killed by the quake.

Ashkenazy is one of many Soviet artists

who left or were expelled from their native land but have returned to perform in the freer climate permitted by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dozens of people gathered outside the conservatory, one of the most prestigious concert halls in Moscow, hoping to be able to purchase a ticket.

Soldiers behind metal barricades checked tickets twice before concert-goers were able to enter the hall, and the tickets were checked several more times inside.



Abortion rights activists gather in Washington. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Rally to keep abortion legal

150,000 gather in Washington

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (UPI): Led by more than 150,000 demonstrators in the nation's capital, tens of thousands of other citizens told public officials that they support the right to legal abortion.

In hundreds of rallies and marches — from Kennebunk, Maine, to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco — the message was clear and blunt: "Dear politicians, listen clear. It's choice we want or your career."

Beneath the stern gaze of the great emancipator, US Park police estimated some 150,000 demonstrators gathered in Washington, stretching from the foot of the Lincoln Memorial along the reflecting pool to the Washington Monument. The demonstrators hoped to focus national attention — as well as the president's — on the volatile issue of legal abortion.

Many of the demonstrators planned to fan out across Capitol Hill today to lobby members of Congress, urging federal funding of abortion for poor women and seeking to make their case against parental notification laws in cases involving teenagers seeking abortion.

Participants at the rally also pledged to flood the Pennsylvania state assembly with phone calls tomorrow before legislators vote on a package of abortion restrictions.

Today, we mark a new era in America. The 1990s will be the decade of choice," declared Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion Rights

League at a rally yesterday in Rancho Park in Los Angeles' Century City.

Celebrities at the event included television actors and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who exhorted a crowd of more than 50,000 to "fight for the right of self-determination."

Also at the rally were entertainers Holly Hunter, Barbara Streisand and Donna Mills, and Norma MacCorvey, the Jane Roe of the 1973 US abortion rights case known as "Roe vs. Wade."

Many demonstrators around the country referred to the US Supreme Court's July 3 decision that let stand the landmark ruling that legalised abortion but gave states broad authority to restrict abortions.

"The Supreme Court did us a great favour," Mary Ann Baker of Youngstown, Ohio, told a rally in the nation's capital. "It got us off our complacent behinds."

In Washington, Democratic and Republican politicians and entertainers headlined a rally by about 150,000 people at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

It was the largest of yesterday's events that began with a sunrise service in Kennebunk, Maine, near Bush's vacation retreat in Kennebunkport. Some attracted small counter-demonstrations.

Galvanised by election victories for abortion-rights supporters in last week's gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey, demonstrators said politicians would be forced to pay them heed in the next round of elections.

## US survey of actuaries

## Yuppies can't retire

LOS ANGELES Nov 13, (UPI): No more than 50 per cent of baby boomers who reach age 65 between the years 2010 and 2028 will be economically able to retire at that age, a recent survey of actuaries found.

By looking at pension and employee benefit data, the survey found that only half of those born in the United States between the end of World War II and 1960 will be able to quit work at the traditional retirement age.

The baby boomers will have to keep working because they will not have accumulated sufficient employer pensions or personal saving and there will be too few workers to support their social security benefits.

Escalating health-care costs will also make it difficult for the yuppie generation to quit work at 65,

said the actuaries, who use statistical data to forecast the financial implications of future events.

The study looked at how benefits are expected to change in the coming years. Among their findings:

— Around 30 per cent of the actuaries believe care for children and elder dependents will be offered as an employee benefit.

— The same per centage believe that the federal government will have mandate health insurance through the workplace by the year 2000. About one-quarter believe the solution to the nation's 15 million uninsured workers will be the creation of a national health insurance system.

— Just over half the actuaries believe that the government will raise taxes to pay off the government's debt to the social security trust funds.

## Asteroid boiled Earth's oceans

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (UPI): Asteroid impacts may have boiled away Earth's oceans in ancient times, creating an atmosphere of scalding steam that prevented life from developing until about 3.8 billion years ago, scientists have said.

US scientists, reporting in the British journal *Nature*, said their calculations show a 260-mile-wide (420 km) asteroid striking earth at a speed of about 3,672 mph (5,909 kph) would create so much heat that the oceans would boil dry.

Such an asteroid would be roughly the size of the larger asteroids in our solar system. The team acknowledged no direct evidence exists of such a devastating asteroid hitting earth. But they noted the moon bears scars of heavy asteroid bombardment, with the last major impact occurring about 3.8 million years ago.

"Earth should have been hit with many more projectiles than the moon as it has more surface area and larger gravity. Statistically, Earth is also likely to get hit with larger objects," wrote the team, headed by geophysicist Norman Sleep of Stanford University in California.

The oldest known evidence of life on earth dates back about 3.56 billion years to fossils found in Australia. Some rocks found in Greenland, dating back about 3.77 billion years, also have mineral ratios indicating they may have been formed from remains of living organisms.

Most scientists think Earth and nearby planets were born about 4.5 billion years ago from material left over as the cooling sun shrank. Researchers have been puzzled about why no life appears to have existed before 3.8 billion years ago, and some have speculated asteroids or other hostile forces may have wiped out the earliest life forms.

The new calculations show the hot rock vapor produced by a large asteroid would evaporate all ocean water and thereby "sterilise" the planet with hot steam, researchers said. It would take 1,000 to 2,000 years for earth to cool down enough again to support life, they said.

Furthermore, researchers noted the impact of an average-sized asteroid — about 114 miles (183 km) across — would be powerful enough to vaporize surface waters containing the plankton crucial to other life forms. The impact of such events would only last about 300 years.

Because heavy asteroid bombardment of earth apparently ended about 3.8 billion years ago, researchers said: "Our estimate for the time of the origin of continental life converges on this date."

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

VENICE, Italy: About 80 women on a tiny island in the Venetian Lagoon are busy stitching lace for a shawl to be given to Soviet First Lady Raisa Gorbachev.

Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti personally selected the model and decorative pattern for the shawl by the lagoon lace makers that he will present during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's Nov 29 visit to Italy. It has not yet been disclosed whether Mrs Gorbachev will accompany her husband.

Gorbachev will meet Andreotti in Rome and meet Dec 1 with Pope John Paul II, the first meeting between the leaders of the Kremlin and Vatican. (AP)

NICOSIA, Cyprus: Stone etchings believed to be about 5,000 years old were found in the northwestern Iranian province of Hamadan, Tehran Radio reports.

The find was made by an archaeological group from the department of natural history at the Abu Ali Sina I university.

The etchings date back to the 1st and 2nd centuries BC, the radio said in a report on Wednesday monitored in Cyprus.

Carvings are found at random on the stone cliff walls, suggesting they were made during respites from hunting for food. Pictures of mountain goats are repeated, the radio said. (AP)

NEW YORK: Grateful dead guitarist Jerry Garcia says the solution to America's drug problems lies not in federal initiatives and mass arrests but in legalisation.

"It's the obvious solution... accept the reality that people do want to change their consciousness, and make an effort to make safer, healthier drugs," Garcia says in the November 30 issue of *Rolling Stone*. "When you take the greed out of it, all the damage starts to fall away, because the criminal intent is a whole different level than the guy who takes drugs." (AP)

NEW YORK: The admission sheet checking Al Capone into a Pennsylvania prison sold for \$6,875 at an auction of memorabilia of the famous and infamous.

The admission sheet, signed Alphonse Capone, was bought on Thursday by a Pennsylvania collector, said Herman Darvick owner of the Herman Darvick Antiquarian Auction. On it, the gangster is listed as "Alphonse Capone alias Al Brown alias Scarface." Darvick said.

Capone was jailed at Eastern State penitentiary in 1929 after arranging his own arrest on gun possession charges to protect himself from George "Boss" Moran, whose gang was largely wiped out that year in the St Valentine's Day massacre. (AP)

ROME: Technicians working to clean the statues that adorn the Trevi Fountain in Rome have discovered that corrosion in the metal supporting clamps has left several of the marble figures dangerously unstable.

The discovery means the year-old project to clean the landmark will have to be postponed until next year while technicians turn their attention to replacing the clamps, the daily newspaper *La Repubblica* said on Thursday. (AP)

EVANSVILLE, Indiana: Two reserve officers from the county sheriff's department recited in a cat from an old water well.

The officers, Charles Wolfinger and Terry Johnson, said workers at a truck stop heard a cat's meows from a well. They attached a towel to a hook and dropped a fishing line down a water pipe. The cat clawed on to the towel, and the men pulled it to safety. "I thought that by instinct they like to claw things and I thought, that if I could get a piece of cloth down to it, it would grab on," Wolfinger said. (AP)

## Novel sentence illuminates prostitution

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida, Nov 13, (UPI): Men accused of soliciting prostitutes are required to appear in court with the prostitutes as part of a judge's plan to discourage repeat offenses by shedding a little light on ladies of the night.

Palm Beach county judge William Bollinger, figures that if the men get a good look at the prostitutes, they won't be tempted again.

"I want them to see these women in the light of day, under the fluorescent lights in the courtroom," Bollinger said. "Some of these women look like

they've gone through the wringer.

Soliciting for prostitution is a second-degree misdemeanor and can carry a \$500 fine and a sentence of 60 days in jail.

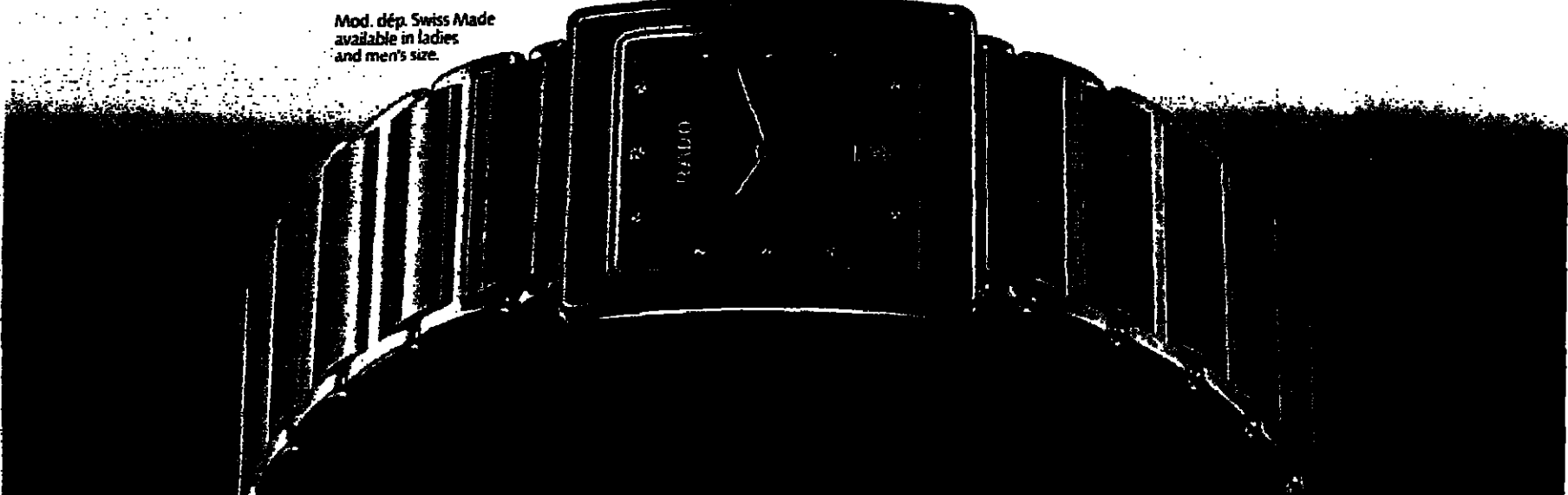
But for men who plead guilty and agree to the alternative sentencing, their penalty is to show up in court four times during the morning session when women arrested for prostitution the previous night are brought into court.

More than 40 men have accepted the alternative since Bollinger began meting out the new sentences two months ago.

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A member of the Salvadoran FMLN guerrillas lies on his side as he watches from within a building in a neighbourhood they took under control during a major offensive in which at least 10 government installations within the capital were attacked. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Foreign ministers of OAS convene

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (AP): Secretary of State James Baker prepared to call for a decisive hemispheric stand against Panama's Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega as foreign ministers from the Organisation of American States gathered today.

A highlight of the meeting was expected to be the admission of Canada as the 32nd OAS member, effective Jan 1. There also was some sentiment in support of readmitting Cuba.

The OAS expelled the government of President Fidel Castro in 1962 on grounds that the country's Marxist-Leninist philosophy is incompatible with OAS principles.

OAS foreign ministers usually convene only once a year, but the Panama crisis has prompted four special OAS sessions since May.

Heavy fighting in El Salvador over the weekend was another possible topic for this one.

An OAS commission appointed in May was unable to fulfill its mandate of arranging a democratic transfer of power in Panama.

US officials said Baker was expected to deliver a tough speech condemning the Panamanian government, but it was not clear whether he would make specific proposals.

His inaugural session was scheduled for today morning, and Baker's remarks were to be delivered in late afternoon.

The Panama crisis arose six months ago when Panamanian authorities threw out the returns from national elections amid widespread allegations of fraud.

A Noriega cronie, Francisco Rodriguez, was sworn in Sept 1 as the unelected president.

The United States has been the strongest proponent of decisive action against Noriega, but other OAS countries maintain that the group should stay out of what is an essentially internal Panamanian matter.

Also on the OAS agenda is Nicaragua's scheduled Feb 25 presidential election. The meeting is expected to produce numerous calls for a free and fair election process.

PARIS, Nov 13, (Reuter): Unesco's Director-General Federico Mayor has scored a partial victory in the watering down of a world information charter, but it may not be enough to persuade the United States to rejoin the organisation, diplomats say.

Mayor fought a prolonged battle against attempts to revive the 10-year-old plans for a charter during the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's general conference which ends on Thursday.

The United States, which quit the 161-nation body in 1984, alleging financial mismanagement and anti-Western bias, is unlikely to be impressed by the new compromise on the charter.

Mayor's initial attempts to bury the information order were foiled by a Third World lobby.

The new text updated the original "new world information order," which alarmed Western states and news organisations, who say linking the free flow of information to "a better balanced dissemination" implied state control of the flow of information.

## Brazilian polls tomorrow Campaigning ends

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 13, (AP): Brazilian presidential candidates yesterday held final rallies on the last day of campaigning before Wednesday's elections, as polls suggested conservative Fernando Collor de Mello led his leftist opponents.

No public campaigning will be allowed during the next three days as Brazilians prepare to vote.

Nation-wide polls issued on Sunday by the Gallup Institute and Datafolha indicated Collor de Mello held a comfortable lead, with a tight battle for second place between Luis Inacio Lula da Silva of the Socialist Workers Party and left-wing populist Leonel Brizola of the Democratic Labour Party.

However, the polls indicated that about one-fourth of the electorate was still undecided. In addition, entertainer Silvio Santos — whom polls had given between 10 and 20 per cent of the vote — was taken out of the race last week when his party was ruled ineligible.

If no candidate wins an absolute majority in the

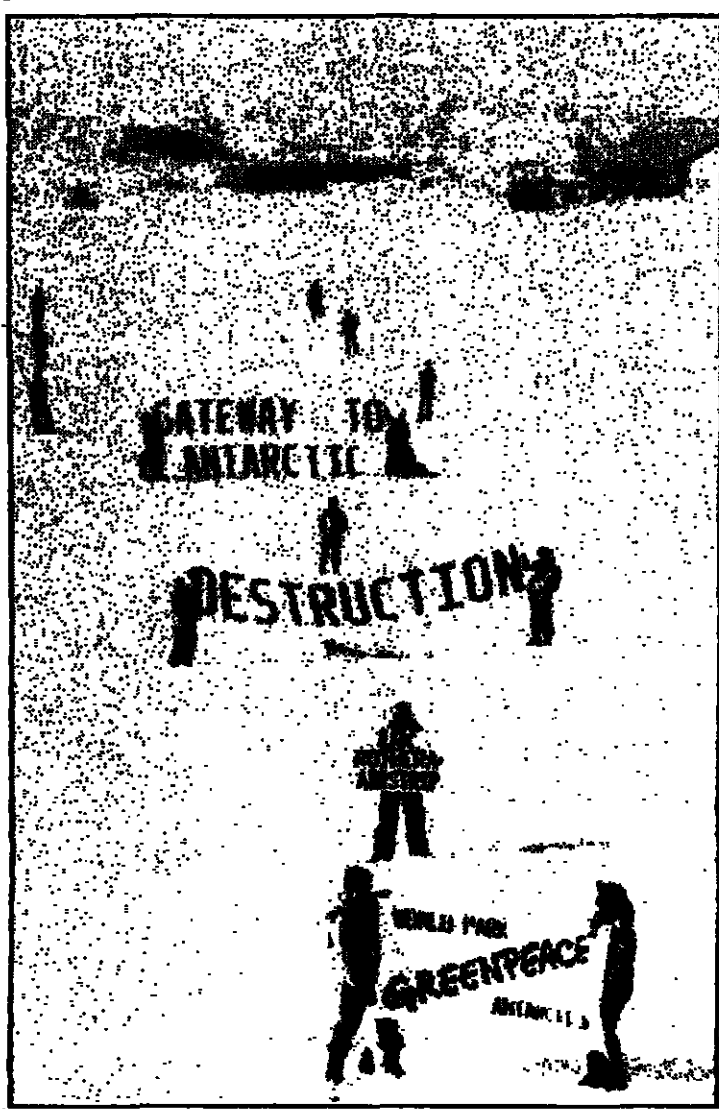
balloting, as it appeared likely, a second round between the two top vote-getters will be held on Dec 17.

The only other of the 21 candidates seen as having a chance to reach the second round is Mario Covas of the centre-left Brazilian Social Democratic Party. Covas, an ex-mayor of Sao Paulo.

In Brazil, South America's largest nation, 73 per cent of the population will be voting for president for the first time. The last popular vote for the presidency was in 1960.

Current President Jose Sarney came to power in an electoral college vote that was strongly influenced by the military dictatorship that ruled between 1964 and 1985. This is the first popular presidential election since 1960.

The top three candidates all held final rallies Sunday in their electoral strongholds.



Save the world

Greenpeace activists hold placards demonstrating against a planned airstrip at Rothera, a British Antarctic survey station. Greenpeace opposes the airstrip because of the potential destruction that may be caused by mineral exploration in the Antarctic which the airstrip could encourage. (Reuter wirephoto)

## One of the largest ever found Gold on Greenland

COPENHAGEN, Nov 13, (AP): Danish and Canadian geologists have discovered a gold find on Greenland, reportedly one of the largest ever found, a Danish newspaper reported yesterday.

Jyllands-Posten in its Sunday edition said the gold find is located on Greenland's east coast, concentrated on 4 square kilometre (1.6 square miles), which would make it easy to extract.

Greenland is a semi-independent part of Denmark.

The paper, quoting Canadian specialist magazine "Northern Mining," compared the size of the gold find to the mines in South Africa, one of the world's biggest gold producers.

The extraction of the gold could start in five years, said the daily, adding that scientists calculated they would be able to dig out 12 tons of the precious metal yearly.

## Belmont elected Lima's mayor

LIMA, Peru, Nov 13, (AP): Peruvians voted to defeat an election boycott called by leftist rebels, trouncing the government party at the ballot box and electing an independent as Lima's mayor, according to results released today.

Television impresario and political independent Ricardo Belmont will take office Jan 1 as mayor of Lima, the decaying, chaotic capital where almost a third of the impoverished Andean nation's 21 million people live.

Unofficial returns from outside the capital following Sunday's elections showed a clear repudiation of the governing, centre-left Aprista Party of President Alan Garcia.

Candidates of the Democratic Front, the centre-right coalition backing novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in next April's presidential elections, appeared to take the majority of seats outside the capital, followed by candidates of the socialist coalition United Left.

Final tallies from many mountain and jungle provinces may not reach the capital for days, owing to their remoteness and poor communications.

Voters turned out in large numbers to vote in Lima and other major cities, despite a violent campaign by Shining Path rebels, inspired by the doctrines of the late Chinese communist leader Mao Tse-Tung, to get voters to boycott the elections.

But early results in a few important mountain provinces where the rebels hold sway showed some voters obeying the boycott. In Ayacucho, a Shining Path stronghold 235 miles (375 km) south-east of Lima, 68 per cent of the votes cast were blank or null, according to unofficial returns.

Election officials in Huancayo, an agricultural centre 140 miles (225 km) east of Lima, counted ballots by candlelight Sunday night, after guerrillas blew up several high-tension power pylons, causing a total blackout.

# State of siege in El Salvador

### 125 killed in rebel attacks

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 13, (Reuter): El Salvador's government yesterday declared a state of siege as the military said the death toll had risen past 125 in the worst fighting of the country's 10-year-old war between the government and leftist rebels.

President Alfredo Cristiani said on national television and radio that constitutional guarantees were suspended under the state of siege. He said the action was necessary to protect the Salvadoran people from "terrorism" by the rebels.

Fierce street-to-street fighting raged in the capital yesterday, pinning residents in their homes as helicopters strafed rebel positions and the two sides exchanged fire across main highways.

The army said that the death toll around the country since the rebels' offensive began on Saturday had risen to 127. It said the armed forces had killed 93 guerrillas and wounded 55 while 26 soldiers were killed and 65 wounded.

However, later on Sunday, civilian and military sources said the death toll in the capital alone had exceeded 100.

Morgue officials said 38 government soldiers were killed in San Salvador.

**Crossfire**  
Morgue and hospital officials said 22 civilians, including an American and a West German, were killed, many in the cross-fire as troops tried to oust the rebels from densely populated San Salvador residential neighbourhoods.

Hospital officials in the capital said they had treated 210 wounded civilians, including 11 children, in the past two days.

At least 41 rebels were killed in the capital, according to the armed forces press office.

The rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) withdrew a week ago from talks aimed at ending the civil war in the Central American nation of five million after 10 people died in the bombing of a leftist labour union's headquarters.

The FMLN launched its offensive with attacks on Cristiani's official and private residences. Military authorities said the president was unhurt.

**Casualties**  
The FMLN said in a statement that it had inflicted 400 casualties on government troops, including both dead and wounded, in attacks at 50 points throughout the country.

The rebels' clandestine Radio Venceremos claimed to have downed two helicopters and destroyed three on the ground, as well as one light aeroplane and 10 armoured vehicles.

"These results widely surpass the expectations we had," the rebel radio said.

Reports from outside the capital were sketchy but fighting was reported in at least eight of the country's 14 departments (provinces). The rebels have said they launched their offensive in all 14 departments.

**Massacre**  
Diplomats said an American teacher and a West German woman had been killed and the Egyptian ambassador's daughter was wounded when her car was caught in crossfire.

El Salvador's only international airport on the outskirts of the capital was closed to all flights indefinitely after rebel attacks in the area.

Reporters who toured the capital on yesterday afternoon saw rebels holding positions in at least four sectors.

Yesterday evening a Reuter journalist saw armoured vehicles and troops heading toward the suburb of Mejicanos, a working-class municipality mainly under rebel control.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, saying he feared a massacre, urged the international community yesterday to condemn what he said was army bombing of civilians in El Salvador.

Ortega described the situation in El Salvador as explosive and dangerous.

The administration of President George Bush says it expects the US backed government in El Salvador to handle a guerrilla offensive that led President Alfredo Cristiani to declare a state of siege.

White House Spokesman Alike Glen would not comment on Cristiani's state of siege declaration and imposition of a dawn-to-dusk curfew.

However, earlier yesterday, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Secretary of State James Baker both described the weekend offensive as a "desperate" move by the insurgents.

Nasa stopped buying rockets in the early 1980s, deciding to launch payloads from shuttles after its booster inventory was exhausted. After the 1986 Challenger explosion, Nasa said it was wrong to rely on the shuttle. Then president Ronald Reagan ordered the agency to stop launching commercial payloads and give such business to private industry.

After a 30-day shakedown, the solar-powered Explorer will spend up to two years using three sensitive detectors to study how the universe and its stars and galaxies developed, programme scientist Larry Caroff said from Washington.



A Salvadoran soldier advances during heavy combat with the FMLN guerrillas. (Reuter wirephoto)



Two members of the FMLN stand watch over a neighbourhood they took under their control as part of a major offensive. (Reuter wirephoto)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Britain's war dead remembered:** Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher placed wreaths at London's Cenotaph yesterday to honour Britain's war dead and observed two minutes silence when Big Ben struck 11:00 am (1100 GMT).

Throughout Britain, at church services and local war memorials, Britons marked Remembrance Sunday, held annually on the Sunday nearest the 11th day of the 11th month.

Under blue skies, the Queen laid a wreath of poppies at the Cenotaph, the stone war memorial erected after World War I. She was followed by her husband, Prince Philip, her second oldest son, the Duke of York, and Mrs Thatcher. (AP)

**Skydiver injured as chute fails to open:** A skydiver practicing a stunt over the Frankfurt municipal airport was seriously injured yesterday when his main chute failed to open, causing him to hit the ground at 60 mph (97 kph), authorities said.

Steven Kivett, 41, of Indianapolis was listed in stable but guarded condition last night at Methodist hospital in Indianapolis with several broken bones and internal injuries after hitting a gravel pitch one mile (2 km) from the airport, authorities said. (UPI)

**Boy killed at suspected drug house:** An 11-year-old boy was shot to death when he went to a suspected drug house with his sister to get her belongings, Kansas City police said. A 14-year-old boy was arrested.

Police said they found Frederick Jones lying in the street after receiving a report of a shooting about Saturday evening. The boy was taken to a hospital where he died about an hour later from a shot to the chest.

"There is no motive," said Sgt Pete Edlund of the homicide unit. "He knocked on the door, a guy said, 'who is it?' then the door opened" and a shot was fired. (AP)

**Potholes is big business:** Eleven people fell into the same Irish pothole in Cork in one year.

Now the fraud squad is investigating a flood of injury complaints which has made this west of Ireland city one of the most accident-prone in Europe.

Payouts for malicious injury this year are expected to top 2.5 million punts (\$3.7 million).

Cork corporation officials first became suspicious when the injury claims were computerised and the same names cropped up, pointing to an organised ring of injury claimants. (Reuter)

**Panamanian ambassador expelled:** Panama's ambassador to Haiti was expelled yesterday, three days after publicly expressing his sympathy with three recently arrested opposition leaders, the state-run radio reported.

Rafael Vargas Santos and his two-member delegation were expelled, the Foreign Relations Ministry said in a news release without giving reasons for the action.

The Haitian charge d'affaires was instructed to leave Panamanian territory at once.

The director of the government daily L'Union, Joseph Bataille, wrote in an editorial in the weekend edition that Vargas' "political position is quite simply diplomatic provocation." (AP)

## Counting of ballots starts in Namibia

WINDHOEK, Namibia, Nov 13, (AP): Under tight security, officials today began counting votes cast by Namibians in a pre-independence election that drew more than a 95 per cent turnout, and was praised for its fairness.

The more than 660,000 ballots were being counted at Windhoek's fairgrounds. Territorial police and soldiers of the United Nations monitoring force barred the news media and public from the complex.

Polls closed Saturday after five days of UN-supervised voting by a 72-member assembly that was to draft a constitution and declare independence sometime early next year, after 74 years of South African rule. The assembly seats will be allocated according to the percentage of votes received by each of the 10 competing parties.

**Swapo**  
The leftist South-West Africa People's Organisation, which fought a 23-year guerrilla war against South Africa, was favoured to receive the most votes. There was doubt if it would receive the two-thirds majority needed to write the constitution without consulting other parties.

Initial results from three of the smallest of the 23 districts showed Swapo had received 3,088 votes to 3,369 for its main rival, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. The alliance, unlike Swapo, participated in the South African-installed transitional government.

Officials said results would be announced district-by-district, but the outcome from the two most populous districts, Windhoek and the northern region of Ovambo, were not expected until Wednesday. More than half the voters are from those two districts, and Ovambo is Swapo's stronghold.

**Future**  
South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said yesterday his government would accept the results and was "ready to work constructively with the future government of Namibia."

He said the election "ends the international dispute that has raged for more than 40 years" and which, aside from apartheid, constituted the most important line of attack against South Africa.

After the voting ended Saturday night, UN special representative Martti Ahtisaari declared the balloting "free and fair."

"The people of Namibia have given the whole world an exemplary lesson in democracy," Ahtisaari said, referring to the lack of violence, low level of intimidation and the patience and enthusiasm of the voters.

South African territorial administrator Louis Pienaar, who will remain in charge of the government until the constitution is completed, had predicted 98 per cent of the 701,483 registered voters would cast their ballots.

**Results**  
The results from 38 northern polling stations were not included when the 95.5 per cent turnout figure was given as a news conference. Pienaar's spokesman, Gerhard Roux, said they would not drastically affect the percentage.

South Africa captured the territory from Germany in World War I and ruled it under a League of Nations mandate subsequently rescinded by the United Nations. South Africa refused UN orders to release the territory of more than 1.3 million people until an agreement was signed last December providing for Cuban troops to leave neighbouring Angola.

## Dissident SA policeman held

CAPE TOWN, Nov 13, (AP): Lt. Gregory Rockman, a dissident police officer who publicly accused riot squad members of brutality, was arrested today while leading a protest against orders to transfer him.

Also detained were about a dozen prison guards and police who recently joined a new union headed by Rockman, and eight journalists covering the protest.

The dissident security officers were protesting in the mixed-race township of Mitchell's Plain. Rockman's hometown, against police orders to transfer Rockman to a post as quartermaster at a station in a white area of Cape Town.

Police also ordered the transfer of Col John Manuel, the commander of the Mitchell's Plain police station, who had supported Rockman.

Police headquarters confirmed that Rockman, who is of mixed race, had been detained under emergency regulations. It said further details were not immediately available.

## Nasa plans 400-million-dollar Explorer mission to study 'Big Bang' radiation

LOS ANGELES, Nov 13, (AP): The US space agency plans to embark this month on a \$400 million mission during which a satellite will study radiation left from the "Big Bang," the 15-billion-year-old blast that scientists say created the universe.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) hopes the launch will produce the most comprehensive observations ever of the early universe and the processes that shaped it to form stars and galaxies.

The \$150 million cosmic background Explorer, a 16-by-28-foot (5-by-8.5-metre) satellite, will be

boosted into orbit 560 miles (900 kms) above Earth by Nasa's last unmanned rocket, said George Diller, an agency spokesman.

The Vandenberg Air Force base launch had been scheduled for Friday but has been delayed until at least Nov 19 to replace a malfunctioning guidance computer on the two-stage Delta rocket.

The 116-foot (35-metre) rocket that will lift the 5,000-pound (2,270 kg) Explorer into orbit will be the 184th Delta launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the last expendable rocket Nasa will ever launch, Diller said.

Nasa stopped buying rockets in the early 1980s, deciding to launch payloads from shuttles after its booster inventory was exhausted. After the 1986 Challenger explosion, Nasa said it was wrong to rely on the shuttle. Then president Ronald Reagan ordered the agency to stop launching commercial payloads and give such business to private industry.

After a 30-day shakedown, the solar-powered Explorer will spend up to two years using three sensitive detectors to study how the universe and its stars and galaxies developed, programme scientist Larry Caroff said from Washington.

The instruments will measure "cosmic background" radiation. Such radiation is different than dangerous ionizing radiation. It includes microwaves, infrared light and "submillimetre" radiation left over from what scientists believe was the fireball of creation.

"If God created the universe, he or she did it about 15 billion years ago — and did it with a bang," Caroff said.

In an instant, a single point of matter expanded explosively into a hot, dense and extraordinarily uniform sphere of gas.



## Spain's civil war heroine

## La Pasionaria dies

MADRID, Nov 13, (Reuters): "La Pasionaria," Spain's legendary civil war heroine and a symbol of the fight against dictator General Francisco Franco, has died of pneumonia, aged 93.

Doctors said Dolores Gomez Ibaruri, better known by her pen-name La Pasionaria, died last night from a double pneumonia complicated by respiratory and circulation problems.

"She had been very weak for two days. She breathed very fast and I guess her heart did not hold up," her daughter Amaya told state Radio Nacional. "At least she did not suffer and died quietly, but for us, her family, it's a tremendous loss. She was a wonderful mother and the kind of woman who should never die."

La Pasionaria, a life-long communist who remained honorary president of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) until her death, won fame for galvanising resistance during the 1936-1939 civil war and later as leader of the Communist Party in exile.

"Dolores, this flower of the 20th century, lives on in the daily activity of thousands of men and women in Spain and in the world who aspire to a society where life and human beings are regarded as the centre of all social and political initiative," the PCE said in a statement after her death.

Messages of condolence from politicians poured in on Sunday night as her death monopolised local media.

Government spokeswoman Rosa Conde personally presented the government's condolences.



Dolores Ibaruri makes her typical salute to supporters before entering the Madrid Hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

and she had many friends in the government and the Soviet Communist Party," an embassy spokesman said.

Amaya told state Radio Nacional: "I send all my affection to the men who in this moment think of La Pasionaria and I am sorry that our Pasionaria has been taken away."

La Pasionaria's cry of "no pasaran" (they shall not pass) rallied thousands to the Republican cause and she became a symbol of resistance against Franco's dictatorship.

to the family and said Ibaruri had become a symbol of "the Spain, the Spain of the war."

The embassy of the Soviet Union, the country where Ibaruri spent 38 years in exile, said they had received the news with sadness and added that Moscow had been informed of her death immediately.

Ibaruri was awarded the Soviet Union's highest civilian honour, the Order of Lenin, in 1965 and received the Lenin peace prize a year earlier. "She was a great friend of our country

## Germans cannot decide on unity alone

LUBLIN, Poland, Nov 13, (Reuters): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said today the division of Germany was "anti-historical and implausible" but Germans knew they could not decide alone on reunification.

In an address to the Catholic University of Lublin, in eastern Poland, Kohl invited Poles to take part in shaping Europe's future, saying that a Europe without Poland was "incomplete and inconceivable."

The statement was likely to be warmly welcomed in Warsaw, which emerged from 45 years of communist rule in September with the formation of a Solidarity-led government that wants to build close ties with the European Economic Community.

"Poland is returning to its Christian and European roots," Kohl said. "This is not only a Polish, but also a pan-European event, which gives rise to new hope for all nations on our continent."

Kohl, who was accepting an honorary doctorate at East Europe's only Catholic university, said the Polish people knew that a policy based on the division of nations was "anti-historical and hence implausible and can have no future."

But he added that Germans were aware that the future of their nation was a matter of interest to their neighbours.

"The truth is that we Germans, as a people living in the heart of Europe, know today that this question — and our answer

to it — is not something to which our neighbours in East and West are indifferent," he said.

"It would also be anti-historical and implausible to assert that it is a matter for the Germans alone whether and how they freely determine their fate and whether they follow their path with or against their neighbours."

The Polish government said on Friday that German reunification would create a powerful new state.

## East Germany abolishes 'Death Strip' along border

East Berliners begin returning to jobs after rejoicing

BERLIN, Nov 13, (AP): East Berliners began returning to their jobs today after four days of celebrations at the newly opened Berlin Wall. Officials said fewer than one per cent of those who crossed into the West chose to stay.

The government formally abolished the "Death Strip" along border areas, where communist guards once shot would-be escapees. A border guard said soldiers had been told to begin removing barbed wire and other fortifications to the Berlin Wall.

It was the latest move to end the division between East and West Germany. So far, 22 new border crossings have been opened and parts of the wall dismantled.

In East Berlin, the nation's parliament convened and was expected to name Hans

But activists in Leipzig, which has been the site of huge pro-democracy protests, planned another demonstration for tonight.

West Berlin began cleaning up the remnants of a celebration that began Thursday, with the opening of East Germany's borders, and finally slowed down last night.

West German government officials said fewer than 1 per cent of the estimated 3 million East Germans who arrived over the weekend decided to stay in the West, a sign that the new open-door policy would help stem the exodus to the West.

East Berlin mayor Erhard Krack strode through a new breach in the 28-year-old Berlin Wall yesterday and shook hands with West Berlin mayor Walter Momper. The meeting took place at the Potsdamer Platz, once the vibrant hub of a united Berlin.

Momper, speaking today with the US television network NBC, said the mayors discussed the need for co-ordination between authorities in both sides of the city to handle the increased car and pedestrian traffic resulting from the new border policy.

In a highly symbolic gesture, West German President Richard von Weizsäcker walked into East Berlin early today and met with a high-ranking East German army officer on a piece of land forming part of the abandoned Death Strip.

Spain's Balearic islands have offered to give 10,000 East Germans free holidays over the next two years, local tourism officials said today.

The parting of the Berlin Wall has opened floodgates of fear in Israel about a reunified Germany.

Newspaper editorials, leading intellectuals and politicians all expressed ambivalent feelings, welcoming the East Germans' new freedom but questioning the dangers posed by a united Germany.

Hundreds of East Germans celebrated their new freedom to travel at the weekend by taking a fairy-tale day trip to Denmark with a ferry captain called Hans Christian Andersen.

"I've never seen such happy people before," Andersen told the newspaper Politiken. "And I've never had so many hugs before."

West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel today ruled out introducing emergency taxes to help house immigrants from East Germany.

He also proposed in an interview with the daily newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung that the East German government use some of its surplus currency to finance foreign travel by its people.

A French radio station said today it planned to award pieces of the Berlin Wall as prizes to its listeners.

A spokeswoman for Skyrock radio said it would mount pieces of the wall on plaques and hand them out to winners of its radio games and quizzes starting on Wednesday.



Business

Solidarity founder Lech Walesa challenged Polish Canadians Sunday to help rebuild their shattered homeland and promised they would not be ashamed of Poland in the future.

Walesa, on a 10-day tour of Canada and the United States, spoke at a public tribute before a crowd of more than 10,000 at Copps Coliseum, Hamilton, Ontario, saying he wanted to put to rest the notion that Poland has come begging for economic aid.

Instead, he said Poland wants to do business with the West.

Walesa donned a long scarlet robe to receive an honorary doctorate of laws degree from Hamilton's McMaster University. He also received a humanitarian award from the Canadian Labour Congress and was named to the psychology and law institute of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Walesa smiled and shook his finger at the crowd in mock seriousness after placing the robe over his suit. He also danced (nature) with a young Polish girl at the rally. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Bulgarian ecologists win test

SOFIA, Nov 13, (Reuters): Bulgarian communist authorities made a fresh move towards political reform today when the Supreme Court agreed to review a ban on an independent ecology group.

The review of the ban on ecoglasnost is the first test of promises of greater openness under new Bulgarian leader Petar Mladenov, who took over from Todor Zhivkov on Friday.

A lower court earlier this year upheld a ban authorities imposed on the group which has organised protests — including the country's first public demonstrations in 40 years — against what it says are environmentally harmful projects.

But state prosecutor Atanas Takev said today the ban was based on legal flaws. He urged the Supreme Court to send the case back to a lower court for a new ruling.

## Cut in Soviet arms debated

No evidence: US

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (AP): Top US officials insist that the Kremlin continues to deploy new strategic nuclear weapons, although a published report said some deployments had been cut in anticipation of an arms control deal.

The officials also disputed a report of cut in Soviet arms spending.

"The fact of the matter is the Soviets have continued to modernize their strategic forces," US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said on the NBC-TV programme "Meet the Press."

Cheney did not flatly deny a report published yesterday in the Washington Post that quoted unidentified government sources as saying the Soviets had stopped producing four new weapons, the SS-18 and SS-24 missile, the Blackjack bomber and the Typhoon submarine, and had suspended work on an aircraft carrier.

The newspaper said the reports, apparently based on satellite photography, conflicted with recent statements by Cheney and Vice President Dan Quayle that the Soviets continued to deploy new weapons.

Responding to that assertion, Cheney said the Soviets might have slowed deployments of some new systems in order not to exceed a ceiling proposed for the

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which would slash long-range, superpower nuclear weapons by 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

Cheney said the report was "not credible" because it contradicted a summit planned for Dec 2-3 in the Mediterranean Sea. Senior US officials have said the Start deal might be ready for a meeting next year between President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Cheney said the Kremlin was replacing many of its older nuclear weapons with more modern bombers, ballistic missiles and submarines, the three legs of the so-called strategic triad.

"In effect what I think would be fair to say is that by the late '90s, even if you have a Start agreement, the Soviets will have changed — out, completely replaced, modernised, every single leg of the triad," Cheney said.

Secretary of States James Baker said that despite the new moderate tone being voiced by the Kremlin, "the Soviet Union still remains a very heavily armed superpower."

Commenting on reports that the Soviets had stopped deploying SS-18s, SS-24s, Blackjacks and Typhoon submarines, Baker said: "As far as I know, that has not been established."

## Florakis rejects Papa's offer

ATHENS, Nov 13, (UPI): Greek communist leader Harilaos Florakis yesterday rejected an offer from former Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu to form a socialist-communist coalition government.

Papandreu, who received the mandate from President Christos Sartzetakis on Friday to try to form a government, met Florakis yesterday to discuss a possible coalition.

## Election

Papandreu's Pan-hellenic Socialist Union (Pasok) captured 128 seats in the 300-member Parliament in last week's general elections, and the communist-led alliance of the left took 21, bringing the two parties' total to 149, or two short of an overall majority.

The Pasok leader said he hoped to gain two more seats for the proposed coalition after holding discussions with a left-wing independent and the ecological alternative party which captured a single seat in the legislature.

The alliance of the left said earlier it would not form a coalition with Pasok so long as the party was led by Papandreu. Florakis described Papandreu's latest offer as "attractive but unrealistic."

## Major

The communist leader said last week that the alliance of the left would be prepared to support a government of national unity in which Greece's three major parties participated.

The current crisis arose from the Nov 5 general elections, Greece's second in five months, which gave the conservative New Democracy, a plurality of 148 seats, leaving it three short of an overall majority.

## Emergence

New Democracy leader Constantine Mitsotakis, who received the exploratory mandate last week, returned it Friday, but said a solution to the crisis may emerge in the form of a national unity government.

Papandreu was expected to return the mandate today, after which it will pass to Florakis.

Political sources said serious discussions on a national unity government are expected after Florakis returned the mandate.

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## World's largest atom smasher inaugurated

MEYRIN, Franco-Swiss border, Nov 13, (Reuters): Presidents and royalty inaugurated the world's largest atom smasher today a pan-European experiment designed to reveal what makes up the universe.

The \$750-million machine, called a large electron positron collider (Lep), is a long concrete underground ring straddling the Franco-Swiss border.

French President Francois Mitterrand and Swedish King Carl Gustav and other European personalities formally opened the project, which has already been delighting its creators by turning out

results since it first began running in July.

Addressing a formal inauguration ceremony, the king described Lep as a major triumph of European scientific co-operation while Mitterrand said it was a "giant step in fundamental research."

"I don't think everybody expected it would work so well so quickly," said Neil Calder, spokesman for the 14-nation European Laboratory for Particle Physics (Cern), of which Lep is a part.

"Lep is the most recent and most powerful tool man has to understand his environment, to understand the world he lives in, how it was created."

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# 'Flower of unification' withering in Seoul



Seven South Korean radical students staging a rooftop protest as Im Su-Kyong went on trial for making an illegal visit to North Korea. The seven, wrapped in national flags, were overwhelmed by police despite threats to jump to their deaths. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Students clash with police outside during trial

SEOUL, Nov 13, (AP): Radical students yelling anti-government slogans clashed with riot police today outside a courthouse where two dissidents went on trial for visiting communist North Korea.

About 300 students stormed out of side-streets leading to the Seoul district criminal court, demanding the release of college student Im Su-Kyong and a Roman Catholic priest, charged with illegally visiting the North.

"Release Im Su-Kyong — flower of unification" students shouted as they jostled with 3,000 riot police circling the court house with shields raised. "Abolish the national security law" students yelled.

Police said 92 students were arrested, but reported no injuries. Inside, senior judge Hwang Sang-Hyun adjourned the trial, after 100 friends and

relatives shouted slogans demanding the release of Ms Im. Roses were tossed at Ms Im, and some yelled "free the flower of unification."

Ms Im told the court that she visited North Korea "to help advance Korea's unification" and denied her visit had come at the instigation of the North. Seoul has charged Pyongyang with trying to create unrest by encouraging students and citizens to defy government orders by visiting.

Seven radical students, several draped in white South Korean flags, occupied the top of a five-storey building near the courthouse for half an hour, shouting anti-government slogans through megaphones. They dropped hundreds of leaflets and unfolded a placard demanding Ms Im's release.

Police spread mattresses below to prevent suicide attempts.

Another group of several hundred family members, friends and Roman Catholic nuns were dispersed by shield-bearing riot police when they tried to enter the courthouse to attend the trial. Jostling occurred, but no injuries were reported.

Ms Im and the Rev. Moon Gyu-Hyun, a US-educated priest, are charged with violating the national security law by making illegal and unauthorized trips to communist North Korea.

Ms Im, a 20-year-old student from Seoul's Hankuk University of foreign studies, travelled to the communist capital of Pyongyang to attend a July 1-8 world youth festival. She returned to South Korea through the truce village of Panmunjom on Aug 15 accompanied by Moon.

## Party ousts Zhao finally

BEIJING, Nov 13, (AP): The Communist Party central committee has formally ousted former party chief Zhao Ziyang, sources said today.

The party leaders during their Nov 6-9 plenary session voted to remove Zhao, an economic reformer accused of supporting last spring's student-led democracy movement, from all his duties in the committee.

At a June 24 meeting the central committee had accused Zhao of making serious mistakes in the midst of "anti-party, anti-socialism turmoil" and dismissed him from all his party posts, including his seat on the 170-member central committee.

Last week's vote apparently gave formal approval to that decision. But the committee's final communiqué had not mentioned Zhao, leaving open the question of how the party would handle his case.

Some party hardliners reportedly had hoped to put Zhao on trial on charges of fomenting counterrevolutionary rebellion. But others, including senior leader Deng Xiaoping, are believed to have resisted.

It was not clear whether Zhao had been stripped of his party membership as well or would be allowed to remain in the 48-million-member party he once headed.

Zhao, 70, one of the architects and main proponents of the market-oriented reforms, has brought prosperity to millions of Chinese, still commands wide popular support.

He has not been seen in public since an emotional meeting with student hunger strikers on May 19, and is believed to be under house arrest.

Last week's session ended with the committee approving Deng's resignation from his last party post, head of the powerful military commission.

Deng, 85, was replaced by the 65-year-old Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin as head of the central military commission. Jiang had been named party chief June 24 with Deng's backing.

Deng, who has served China's communist cause for six decades, resigned from the party's ruling politburo and other top party posts in 1987 but is still recognized as the ultimate source of power in the country.

Deng told a Japanese delegation today that they were the last official delegation he would meet.

Deng, in the meeting with the Japanese business group, said he was determined to make a clean break with official functions, in order to realise his goal of ending lifetime holding of offices by senior officials, sources at the meeting said.

Deng is leading a drive to force ageing politicians out of office and rejuvenate the Chinese leadership.

Deng expressed confidence in the abilities of Jiang, 63, who was plucked from relative obscurity as party boss in Shanghai to head the 48-million-member party, after the ouster of reformer leader Zhao Ziyang in June.

Deng acknowledged that Jiang, who has little in the way of power base in Beijing, lacks experience. But he said Jiang was an intellectual with impressive knowledge and ability, and that he felt reassured with Jiang in power.

The crackdown on political dissent continued, with a report today of a man arrested in southern China for painting "reactionary slogans" on buildings and portraits of Mao Tse-tung.



Deng Xiaoping swimming at the Beidaihe resort in August this year.

## Soviets seek Japan treaty

TOKYO, Nov 13, (Reuter): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's top aide Alexander Yakovlev told Japanese leader today that bilateral ties, frozen since World War Two, should thaw in line with dynamic changes elsewhere in the world.

Yakovlev, often regarded as Gorbachev's right-hand man in foreign policy, made the statements in meetings with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"We are for a peace treaty with Japan. Soviet-Japanese relations must reach the level of changes taking part in the rest of the world," Yakovlev was quoted as telling Nakayama.

"The international political scene is moving very fast, and Soviet-Japanese ties must go along with this for stability in the region," Kaifu told Yakovlev in their meeting.

Apart from a vague allusion to a "third plan," he had no surprises to offer regarding a thorny territorial dispute that has barred the two countries from signing a peace treaty. But his visit itself has been seen by Japan's government as signifying improved ties.

Earlier in the day, he hinted at a possible compromise in the territorial dispute over islands off Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido. This was in a meeting with Ichiro Ozawa, the head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

"There might be a third way to do this," Yakovlev was quoted as saying by party officials.

But it was understood to mean future discussions could centre on co-administering the disputed islands of giving back part of the group, which was seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War Two.

The Japanese government has slated an unusual number of meetings for Yakovlev, including those with Emperor Akihito, Kaifu and Nakayama, the heads of the two houses of parliament, and heads of the major political parties and heads of Japan's powerful industrial and financial firms.

Yakovlev, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party, leads a delegation from the Supreme Soviet, or parliament.

Past visits here by Soviet parliamentary delegations were little more than routine and did not include such a variety of meetings.

Japan claims sovereignty over four small Soviet-held islands to the northeast of Hokkaido. Moscow had, until last year, refused even to discuss the issue. The two countries have yet to sign a peace treaty.

Chairwoman of the Japanese opposition Socialist Party Takako Doi will launch an election campaign in various governorate starting on Nov 24, sources at her party said today.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is expected to visit countries in the Association of South Eastern Asian Nations (Asean) next spring, Japanese sources said today.

## 15 die in Jakarta as boat capsizes

JAKARTA, Nov 13, (Reuter): At least 15 people died and 10 were reported missing when a boat capsized in Citarum river near the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, a local police spokesman said today.

The small ferry overturned after it was hit by lightning around midnight on Saturday.

The spokesman said the passengers were returning home after attending a traditional musical concert. Rescuers are searching for the missing people. There were 19 survivors.

## Pakistan, China ties stay strong

Li Peng visiting Pindi

ISLAMABAD, Nov 13, (AP): Pakistan, one of communist China's oldest friends, today welcomes Premier Li Peng on his first official trip abroad since the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Talks are expected to focus on the war in Afghanistan. Pakistan rejected sanctions against China following the military crackdown last June, despite the urging of another of Islamabad's close allies, the United States.

"As far as we're concerned there is no value in isolating China," said a Pakistan Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be identified.

Sun Yuxi, first secretary at the Chinese mission in Islamabad, said: "There is no doubt that as our close neighbour and sympathiser, Pakistan understands what happened in June, and in no way has it affected our bilateral relations."



Deformed

Eighteen-year-old, male hippopotamus displays a mouth full of deformed teeth as he yawns while resting in his own pond at the Madrid zoo. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Malacca collision Destroyer limps

SINGAPORE, Nov 13, (AP): A US Navy destroyer and a merchant ship limped toward Singapore by their own power today after a collision in the Strait of Malacca that killed one navy crewman and injured five others, the navy said.

It was the latest in a two-week series of fatal accidents involving navy ships.

The USS Kinkaid was bound from the Indian Ocean to Singapore yesterday when it collided with the 130-metre (430-foot) freighter Kota Petani in the Malacca Strait, 380 kilometres (240 miles) northwest of Singapore. The strait separates Malaysia and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

At Subic Bay in the Philippines, 7th fleet spokesman Lt Joe Gradisher said one US sailor was confirmed dead and five slightly injured.

The vessels were expected in Singapore waters today or tomorrow. Lt Cmdr Bob Anderson, a spokesman for the Pacific fleet headquarters at Pearl Harbour, said the pre-dawn collision tore a 4.5-by-17-metre (15-by-56-foot) hole above the waterline on the right side of the destroyer.

The Kota Petani sustained major damage to its bow, but there were no injuries reported, he said.

Beijing and Washington have been military big brothers to Pakistan, which lies between an often hostile India to the east and war-torn Afghanistan to the west. Historically, Pakistan has seen China as a strategic counter-balance to India.

The United States, China and Pakistan have been the main supporters of insurgents fighting Afghanistan's Marxist government, which is backed by the Soviet Union, New Delhi's closest ally.

"The relationship and friendship between Pakistan and China is very deep-rooted," said Sun. "Neither can afford to lose this."

Pakistan was the first to recognise Mao Tse-tung's People's Republic of China in 1949. Pakistan's port city of Karachi was China's first international air link.

Former US secretary of State Henry Kissinger used Pakistan to slip into Beijing in 1971 to lay the groundwork for the first US presidential visit to China the following year.

While the military assault on pro-democracy demonstrators, which left hundreds and perhaps thousands dead, was high drama on television around the world, it received only passing mention on Pakistan's state-controlled TV.

At the time, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman said only that China's politics was its own affair.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto last February chose China for her first official visit abroad following her electoral victory in November 1988.

"One good thing in the relations between China and Pakistan is that both sides strictly observe the principle of non-interference in the other's internal affairs," Sun said. "It is kind of a model relationship between the two neighbours with different social systems."

But China's strict adherence to non-interference has boomeranged on Pakistan, which can no longer count on gratis Chinese weapons for Afghan anti-communist rebels.

Moscow completed the withdrawal of its combat troops from Afghanistan last February after nine years of intervention, and China has since plugged its weapons pipeline. However, US arms continue to flow to the rebels via Pakistan, and the Soviets continue supplying the Afghan government.

## Lange to run for election

Former premier dumps wife

WELLINGTON, Nov 13, (AP): Former Prime Minister David Lange, following a weekend statement that he had left his wife of 21 years, announced today that he plans to run in the 1990 general election.

In August, Lange, 47, resigned after five years as prime minister, citing health reasons. His brief announcement late Friday that he was leaving his wife, Naomi, fuelled speculation that he would quit politics, but Lange said he intends to contest his seat at Māngere in next year's election.

Following Lange's statement about their separation, Mrs Lange phoned Wellington's Dominion Sunday Times newspaper to say her husband was involved with a speechwriter, adding that the couple's three children needed a father.

"Society is totally sick when people rob other people's husbands," Mrs Lange was quoted as saying. "I love my husband and I'm going to fight for him."

Speaking to reporters, Lange's 80-year-old mother, Phoebe, denounced her son's action, saying he told her last Tuesday that he was leaving his wife.

"I was furious. I didn't swear but I told him in no uncertain terms what I thought of him," she said.

Lange's mother added that her daughter-in-law faced a tough year, as the couple's daughter, Emily 13, was to have extensive surgery for a cleft palate.

"My heart is full of hatred, and I don't want to speak to him," said Lange's mother.



## Demonstrators charged

Spanish riot police charge on demonstrators protesting the compulsory military service in Seville. The police repressed the protest held in front of the site where the drawing of the 1990 recruits was taking place. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Opium up in Burma

HONG KONG, Nov 13, (Reuter): The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said today there had been a sharp increase in opium production in the key areas of Burma and Afghanistan.

David Westrate, assistant administrator for operations at the Washington-based agency, said: "It's difficult to quantify but it's significantly up in Afghanistan and our best guess for Burma is that opium production is up between 25 to 30 per cent, and the bulk of that comes from the Shan states."

"These areas are not areas we can normally operate in" he added.

He said recent unrest in Burma meant the military had largely stopped operations against the drug lords in the Shan states, leaving them virtually a free hand to operate.

Westrate, on a tour of the region, told reporters there had been a significant increase in the purity of the heroin, which is derived from opium, available in the United States.

"Normally the purity of heroin available on the street has been between two to three per cent, now we are finding it as high as 38 per cent," he said. "Purity is an indication of availability."

He said the amounts being seized the world over were much higher and that the market was supply driven.

"If there is a glut, the price goes down and it is available to more people," Westrate said.

He said the DEA was concerned about a growing trend in the United States of smoking crack with heroin.

Westrate said users of crack, a cheap derivative of cocaine, were trying to counter the dramatic loss of euphoria normally experienced half an hour after smoking the drug by adding heroin, which does not produce such a dramatic "down."

"What concerns us about the rise in availability and a corresponding drop in price is that it could mean a whole new generation of heroin addicts."

## Bush names 27 Drug advisers

WASHINGTON, Nov 13, (AP): President George Bush today named 27 citizens, including medical pioneer Dr Jonas Salk and former attorney general William French Smith, as advisers for the war on drugs.

"All share my goal of ridding America of illegal drugs," Bush said at a White House ceremony where he signed an executive order creating the presidential drug advisory council.

With drug policy director William Bennett at his side, Bush gave the advisory panel the mission of finding better ways to:

- Encourage employers to keep workplaces drug-free.
- Enlist the aid of many Americans who want to volunteer their time and energy to winning the war on drugs.
- Communicate to all Americans, especially our young, the importance of staying off drugs.
- Co-ordinate the multitude of private and non-profit anti-drug efforts.
- Involve the private sector "in the building of prisons and jails."

Bush unveiled a nearly \$8 billion anti-drug strategy in September. The council, given a two-year life span, will be chaired by Texas businessman William Moss. Members, in addition to Salk and Smith, include: Alvin Brooks, director of the Kansas City, Missouri, Human Relations Department; Patricia A. Burch of Maryland, a founder of the National Federation of Parents for Drug-free Youth; James E. Burke of New Jersey, former chairman of Johnson and Johnson; Alvin H. Chapman Jr. of Florida, former chairman of the Board of Knight-Ridder Inc.

Retired Adm. William J. Crowe Jr, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; Lee I. Dogoloff of Maryland, executive director of the American Council for Drug Education; Robert A. George, president of the AFL-CIO's building and construction trades department; Elsie H. Hillman, Republican national committeewoman for Pennsylvania.

## Aids shock for Vatican meeting

Condom condemned

VATICAN CITY, Nov 13, (UPI): An American priest shocked the opening session of a Vatican conference on Aids today by unfolding a banner bearing the slogan "The Vatican has Aids" in front of the delegates.

Vatican gendarmes grabbed the priest and hustled him out of the hall to their headquarters for questioning.

Vatican sources said the man, dressed in a black suit with a clerical collar, identified himself as John White, a US Catholic priest. But he carried no identity documents and police are checking to confirm his identity.

The incident happened around noon (1000 GMT) during the inaugural session of the conference in which more than 500 international scientists and theologians will discuss all aspects of the Aids scourge for three days.

The intruder walked up to the chairman's table and unfolded his banner with the slogan "The Vatican has Aids" written in red letters on a gray backcloth.

Archbishop Fiorenzo Angelini, president of the pontifical council for pastoral assistance to health care workers which is sponsoring the conference, resumed conference proceedings with a minimum delay.

The incident followed opening speeches by Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, and other key speakers.

"Presently there is attention given only to physiological, pathological and medical aspects of the Aids condition, virtually forgetting the mental, emotional and spiritual suffering of the persons who are suffering from the disease," cardinal O'Connor told the conference.

## Man locked in cage after attacking gorilla

MELBOURNE, Nov 13, (AP): A man attacked a 110-kilogramme (220-pound) female gorilla and a baby ape today until zoo officials locked him in a cage, a spokeswoman said.

Melbourne zoo spokeswoman Judith Henkey said the assailant, about 25, yelled "I've come to kill a gorilla," then kicked and punched the adult female primate, named Betsy.

Screaming in fear, the ape tried to protect itself and a five-year-old male called Mzuri, which was produced by artificial insemination, Ms Henkey said.

She said the man, whose name was withheld, jumped

down a five-metre (15-foot) enclosure and "started attacking the animals."

"They were genuinely frightened and screaming in fear," Ms Henkey said. "He kicked and punched Betsy and snatched a plastic toy from Mzuri, saying he had come to kill a gorilla."

The attacker reportedly arrived earlier in the day from the southern state of Tasmania. Ms Henkey said it appeared he had a history of mental illness, adding he was under observation at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He suffered minor injuries while jumping into the enclosure, and Betsy sustained a small cut on her arm.



## MIDEAST NEWS

**Thieves in jail**  
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 13 (Reuters): Thieves broke into an Israeli jail and stole two colour televisions as well as money and other items, a prison spokeswoman said today.

The thieves cut through a barbed-wire fence around Me'arafa Prison open prison in the central town of Ramat. Prison officials suspect inmates passed the televisions through the hole in the criminals' clothing. No one has been arrested.

**Session on Nov 27**  
AMMAN, Nov 13 (AP): King Hussein today called the newly elected Jordanian Parliament to convene on Nov 27, when the monarch is to propose policy guidelines to a legislature heavy with Islamic activists.

State-run Jordan Radio reported Hussein's decree to the elected, 80-seat lower house and the royally appointed 40-member senate.

The meeting will be the first since July 1983, when Hussein dissolved the old 60-member Parliament, half of whose members came from the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

**Bomb blasts**  
PESHAWAR, Nov 13 (Reuters): A bomb exploded in a hotel room in Peshawar today, the latest in a wave of unexplained blasts in the north-western Pakistan city that serves as a base for rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Police said they believed the bomb had been planted by a man who disappeared from the Amin hotel yesterday and whose nationality could have been Pakistani or Afghan.

**Israelis go to polls**  
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 13 (AP): Israelis voted today in nation-wide trade union elections that were a test of strength between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc and the left-wing Labour Party.

Shamir, who leaves for the US later today, sought to undercut Labour's traditional power base in the unions, hoping to give himself a stronger hand in talks with President George Bush this week about Middle East peace moves.

**Female envoy**  
PARIS, Nov 13 (UPI): The PLO has broken tradition by nominating its first female representative, Leila Chaal, to its public office, a PLO spokeswoman said today.

Shahid, 40, will replace Eugene Malchouk as the head of the Dublin office, a key posting as Ireland prepares to take over the rotating European Economic Community presidency in January.

**Two arrested**  
NICOSIA, Nov 13 (Reuters): Two people have been arrested today in connection with a suspected plot to attack the UN headquarters in Tehran, the Iranian news agency, Iran reported.

Iran, quoted a police official saying yesterday that the two were being questioned by the police.

**Rocket attack**  
ISLAMABAD, Nov 13 (Reuters): A barrage of rockets fired by the Mujahideen rebels landed on Kabul yesterday, killing at least 10 people and injuring five others, a local Afghan news agency said today.

The report said 10 surface-to-air missiles were fired after a hum of several days in the sporadic bombardment of the Afghan capital from rebel strongholds in the nearby mountains.

**UN envoy in Iraq**  
BAGHDAD, Nov 13 (Reuters): UN envoy Jan Eliasson, on his third visit to Baghdad in a week, met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz yesterday to discuss a week of efforts to revive Gulf peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

The official Iraqi News Agency said they discussed means of implementing the UN Security Council's Resolution 598, agreed upon eight years of fighting stopped last August, as the basis for a durable settlement of the dispute.

**Shiites clash**  
RASHAYA, Nov 13 (AP): The Syrian-backed Assad militia clashed with the Hezbollah in east Lebanon's Bekaa valley overnight, police said today.

Two Assad fighters were wounded, a police spokesman said. He said the fighting between the Assad militia and the Hezbollah destroyed Assad's headquarters in the village. The village had been under joint control.

**Saddam to visit**  
KUWAIT, Nov 13 (Kuna): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is expected to visit Kuwait within the next few days, press reports said here today.

A Kuwaiti daily newspaper reported unidentified "well informed sources" as saying that Saddam will discuss important issues with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

# Release assets to get hostages

## Iran reiterates call to US

MANAMA, Nov 13 (UPI): Iran reiterated its call today for the United States to release all Iranian assets frozen in US banks to ensure progress on the issue of American hostages in Lebanon, Tehran Radio said.

But the state-run radio warned that release of Iranian assets alone would not be enough to convince the kidnappers to free the hostages.

Also today, Arab government officials said envoys loyal to Iran's pragmatist President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani were continuing their talks with Algerian and Omani officials, to pave the way for an eventual hostage release.

The officials said the talks were continuing even though radicals in Iran such as sacked interior minister Ali Akbar Mohtashami were opposed to any move that would bring Iran closer to the West.

The hardline, clergy-owned Tehran daily Al-Abrar, in a front-page commentary yesterday, rejected meanwhile US President George Bush's remarks last week that the return of over half a billion dollars of Iranian assets by the United States should be considered a sign of goodwill.

"These remarks, if not regarded as an illusion, should be considered as a sign of the stillbirth of the Americans have learned from their British brethren," Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Al-Abrar as saying.

Al-Abrar, reflecting opposition with the ranks of the ruling clergy to Rafsanjani's avowed aim of using Tehran's influence to help gain freedom for the hostages if the United States releases all Iranian assets, said Bush could not deceive the Iranian people.

"No doubt... the US expects resumption of ties with Iran in return for its 'goodwill' gesture and would like the Islamic republic to open its doors to the Americans, the traces of whose crimes are still visible in the country," the newspaper said.

"In diplomatic language, this policy is called the 'policy of deceiving public opinion' or in other words the 'policy of hegemony'."

In a separate development, Iran said authorities arrested two men on Thursday who were trying to attack the Dutch embassy in Tehran. The Iranian agency did not say if the men belonged to a radical Islamic group with a grudge against Holland.

Tehran Radio's more conciliatory commentary welcomed the movement forward in the hostage crisis, but it warned the Bush administration would have to do more to convince the kidnappers of the hostages to free them.

The eight American hostages are among 17 foreign hostages held in Lebanon by groups

thought to be sympathetic to Iran. The other hostages include three British, two Germans, two Swiss, one Irishman and one Italian. There are as yet unsubstantiated reports that one of the British hostages, former World War II fighter pilot Jack Mann, died in captivity.

"The United States should now move to release all Iranian assets," the radio, monitored in Manama, said. At least \$8 billion in Iranian assets was frozen in US banks after an Iranian mob stormed the US embassy in Tehran and held 52 hostages from November 1979 to January 1981.

About 750 kg of narcotics have been seized, 157 drug smugglers arrested and more than 2,000 addicts rounded up throughout Iran in two days, Iran reported today.

The agency said that the traffickers were ambushed in their desert hideouts.

**Iraq sacks, jails 293 'fishy' officials**  
BAGHDAD, Nov 13 (Agencies): Iraq sacked dozens of government fish breeders and sacked hundreds more today for negligence which caused heavy losses in the state industry.

Iraqi newspapers said 82 were ordered jailed for up to a year and 211 were dismissed. They gave no details of how the losses were caused or their extent.

The state-run media reported that the Revolutionary Command Council had ordered the sackings because "they did not run the project where they work in a serious and sincere way."

None of the 211 employees will receive pensions or compensation for their duty, an RCC decree stipulated.

The decree also said that 11 employees will be imprisoned for one year while 71 others will be imprisoned for six months as a further punishment for negligence of duty.

The media said the officials were in charge of a fish breeding field but they failed to bring the breeding fish to the pools in the appropriate time and neglected their feeding. The fish were unable to lay eggs needed by other fish farms throughout the country.

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A Kuwaiti daily newspaper reported unidentified "well informed sources" as saying that Saddam will discuss important issues with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

**93 states have recognised Palestine; intifada forces PLO to make diplomatic moves**  
TUNIS, Nov 13 (Reuters): The PLO said today 93 of the 160 states in the United Nations had recognised the state of Palestine proclaimed by the Palestinian parliament in exile a year ago.

According to a list compiled by the PLO's political (foreign affairs) department, they include all Arab states except Syria, 36 African countries, 18 East bloc states, 14 Asian countries, three in Western Europe, one in Latin America and one in Australasia.

The list included East bloc countries like the Soviet Union which recognised the proclamation but not the state itself.

This is the official PLO list: Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, North Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

African countries: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda,

Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey.

East bloc countries: Albania, Byelorussia, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Laos, Mongolia, North Korea, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yugoslavia.

West European countries: Austria, Cyprus, Malta, Latin America: Nicaragua, Australasia: Vanuatu.

When describing progress since November 15, 1988 — the day the Palestine National Congress declared a Palestinian state with Yasser Arafat as President — residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip point mainly to intangibles such as increased resolve or greater international sympathy.

"The Palestinians did not gain anything in 20 years of occupation," said Sami, a 23-year-old Gaza activist with

# Wives of W. Bankers deported

AMMAN, Nov 13 (Reuters): Jordan will seek international help over Israel's expulsion to Amman of 32 Jordanian women of Palestinian origin married to West Bank residents, an official said today.

Israel expelled the women and their 56 children over the past four months because they did not have residence permits although their husbands were from the occupied West Bank.

"We shall raise the deportation issue at the International Red Cross level," said Mohammed Al Edwan, head of the Interior Ministry's inspection and control department.

"We have asked their husbands to try and get their wives permits to go back to the West Bank despite Israel's refusal to give them such return permits," he told Reuters.

"Some of them went to the West Bank with visit permits and got married. They have been living there for more than 15 years. They even delivered their children there," he said.

Edwan said Israeli authorities had discovered irregularities in the women's papers when it stepped up controls as part of efforts to crush a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordan cut legal and administrative ties with the West Bank last July after almost 40 years of unity and its nearly one million inhabitants lost their Jordanian citizenship.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled during the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars have become Jordanian citizens. In the late 1960 and early 1970s, Israel deported many Palestinian activists.

**Arabs hang Israeli lackey**  
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 13 (AP): Palestinian enforcers yesterday hanged one suspected collaborator from a lamppost in a Gaza Strip refugee camp and stabbed another to death in the West Bank, residents told reporters.

The government approved the establishment of a Jewish settlement in the occupied Gaza Strip, Israel radio said.

The United States and European nations say building more settlements is an obstacle to peace. There are more than 70,000 Israelis living in about 130 settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The cabinet approved Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's 11-day visit to the United States, which begins with a meeting on Wednesday with US President George Bush, Shamir, expected to leave tomorrow, will stop in Rome and Paris on his way home.

The meeting comes at a time when peace efforts could falter if Washington is unable to meet Israel's demands for assurances that the Palestine Liberation Organisation will be excluded from direct or indirect involvement in proposed Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo.

Speaking from Washington on Israeli army radio, Shamir spokesman Avi Fox said the United States "must find a formula that satisfies us" that the PLO will not be involved in selecting negotiators for peace talks.

"I believe if the Americans want to advance peace, and they do, then they will find a solution to this problem," he said.

The Israeli army forced schools in West Bank to close today, two days before the first anniversary of the Palestinian's declaration of an independent Palestinian state.

The West Bank's 1,200 government, private and United Nations schools reopened four months ago following seven months of military-ordered closure.

A spokesman for the Israeli civil administration said the closure was for academic reasons, but Palestinians said it was intended to pre-empt demonstrations on the independence anniversary on Wednesday.

The underground leadership of the 23-month-old uprising against Israeli rule of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has called on Palestinians to mark the anniversary.

Ten Gaza residents were wounded today when Israeli troops fired at Palestinian demonstrators marking the anniversary, Palestinians reported.

"Most schools did not finish their curriculum," said Ahmad Moussa, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) field education officer in the West Bank.

In an effort to hinder the development of an independent Arab community living under Israeli rule since 1948, the Israeli government is introducing a measure to outlaw foreign donations to Arab institutions.

**Joint security**  
NICOSIA, Nov 13 (Reuters): Egypt and Qatar have agreed to set up joint committees to boost security co-operation, the Qatari News Agency said today.

The agency received in Nicosia quoted Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr as saying his talks with Qatari officials during a three-day visit to Doha focused on countering the drug trade and terrorism.

Badr said the proposed committees would discuss ways of implementing security co-operation between Cairo and Doha.

**Somalia seeks talks with dissidents**  
NAIROBI, Nov 13 (AP): The Somali government, battling insurgents in the north and south, is seeking peace talks and amending the constitution to allow more political parties, a cabinet minister said.

Foreign Minister Abd Al Rahman Jama Barreh made the announcement over the weekend in an interview broadcast by the official radio in Somalia's north-western neighbour Djibouti.

"The Somali government has decided to invite all those who hold different views from ours to come and have talks with the government," Radio Djibouti, monitored in Nairobi, quoted Barreh as saying.

Barreh, who was in Djibouti for talks with President Hassan Gouled, said the multi-party system of government was not alien to Somalia.

He cited the horn of Africa nation's 88 political groups before President Siad Barre seized power in a bloodless coup in October 1969.

"We are now involved in amending the constitution in order to make provisions for the formation of (other) parties and to establish ways in which they can compete in elections," Barreh said.

The Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, formed in 1976, is Somalia's sole political organisation.

**Bandit killed in shootout**  
RIYADH, Nov 13 (AP): A fugitive bandit was killed in a shootout with policemen after he killed one of them and injured four others, the Interior Ministry announced last night.

The man, a Saudi national identified as Kabeen Bin Shihab, had been incriminated by three other family members convicted for murder and highway robbery in the kingdom's Islamic courts. The three were beheaded.

On the run, he was spotted on Saturday night after stealing a car and trying to escape, the ministry statement said. He shot at the chasing policemen, injuring one of them, got out of the car and fled to neighbouring hills to hide.

On Sunday morning, a police squad went after him in the hills but he opened fire with a machine-gun, killing one of them and injuring three others, the statement said.

It was then decided to gun him down, and he was shot dead.

# Hassan pardons editor

RABAT, Nov 13 (Reuters): Morocco's King Hassan has pardoned the editor of an opposition newspaper jailed for two years for publishing a human rights statement, the palace said yesterday.

Mohamed Idrissi Kaitoumi, editor of L'Opinion, a daily published by the old-guard Istiqlal Nationalist Party, was convicted by a Rabat court last Wednesday of publishing a false report liable to cause a breach of the peace.

In a statement carried by the official news agency Map, the palace said Hassan pardoned Kaitoumi after the Shorfa Idrisside, a religious fraternity, had visited the tomb of the king's father, Mohammed V, to implore a royal pardon.

The Idrissids are descendants of the first Muslim rulers of Morocco in the eighth century and Mohamed Idrissi Kaitoumi is a member of the family.

The statement said it was a tradition for the present dynasty to grant pardons after "the intercession of all those who have recourse to the holy Idrissid to ask for his protection."

Kaitoumi was convicted after publishing a joint statement from the Association and League of Human Rights alleging that four persons had died in custody in mysterious circumstances.

He was defended by over 400 lawyers representing opposition parties, labour organisations and other groups which said that freedom of the press was on trial.

**Turkey PM may face opposition**  
ANKARA, Nov 13 (Reuters): Turkey's ruling party is likely to support new Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut in two crucial votes this week but may try to dump him for a different leader next year, party sources said today.

Akbulut's surprise appointment on Thursday by outgoing Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, the new President, angered many Motherland Party deputies who see the bland former bureaucrat — mocked by the opposition as "Baskatib," or chief clerk — as a rubber stamp for Ozal's policies.

The sources said the party, with 282 of Parliament's 450 seats, would ensure Akbulut wins a confidence vote for his new cabinet on Wednesday.

They said liberal and right-wing deputies, keen to preserve party unity, would also vote for him to become party chairman at a Motherland congress on Friday when he is likely to be challenged by former minister Hasan Celal Guzel.

"We think Akbulut will be a provisional chairman," Bulent Akarcali, a senior member of party's dominant liberal wing, told Reuters.

"The next normal congress is set for July 1991 but we want it in the middle of next year to pick a leader," he said.

Akbulut, 54, an Ozal loyalist who was previously speaker of parliament, has pledged to pursue Ozal's policies, including economic liberalisation.

"Akbulut's appointment met a sad reaction because of the way Motherland politicians were considered poons. They feel they were manipulated by Ozal," a party source said.

"Ozal is playing with everyone just like a cat plays with a mouse," said another.

The sources said Ozal chose Akbulut after the two liberal front-runners for the post, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Communications Minister Cengiz Tuncer, rejected his conditions.

Ozal wanted the party's small but influential Islamic wing to be given cabinet seats, the sources said. Fundamentalist leader Mehmet Koceler and two other right-wingers are in Akbulut's cabinet.

Suleyman Demirel, head of the centre-right True Path Party (DYP), said he would order his 56 deputies to boycott Wednesday's confidence vote.

**US backs Qaboos' mediation**  
MUSCAT, Nov 13 (AP): The new US ambassador to Oman yesterday told Sultan Qaboos that Washington "encourages" his efforts to mediate friendly relations among all nations in the Gulf region.

Richard Boehm said: "We hope that lasting peace will prevail in the interest of all states of the region and we work tirelessly for that."

Boehm spoke while presenting his credentials to Qaboos. His statement was distributed in Arabic by the official Oman news agency.

"We appreciate the continuous efforts of the government of Oman and we encourage it to establish good relations among all states of the region," he added.

The Sultan has been quietly trying to heal a rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Oman maintains good relations with Tehran, and Saudi Arabia is a partner in the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council.

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Hoss guarded

Salim Hoss, who was named by Lebanon's President Rene Muawad as new prime minister and was entrusted with forming a unity cabinet, enters his car guarded by Lebanese policemen in West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)



# Istimara suspension a mistake, says Saad

Call for proper application of laws

THE suspension of learners' licences (Istimara) for non-Kuwaitis was one of the big mistakes committed by the General Traffic Administration (GTA), a former director, retired Major-General Yousef Al Saad, said.

He told a local daily that he strongly opposed the decision at the time. He said he took a middle of the road decision between those who opposed and those who supported suspension of Istimaras.

He decided to give a written test on traffic regulations to anyone who wanted a licence. He called it a "polite rejection" because the GTA could control the number of persons getting a licence.

This was the logical solution, he said. But the problem was that the decision was not applied to all applicants and this brought many troubles to the GTA.

He said that those who believed that decision to suspend Istimaras for non-Kuwaitis reduced traffic jams or solved a part of the traffic problem were wrong. The decision injured the reputation of the GTA because people used waste (influence) to get Istimaras, besides causing confusion among people.

Major General Al Saad said that the GTA prevented women from getting driving licences in the 1960s due to the social traditions.

The decision was appropriate for customs and values of Kuwait society at that time.

But now women have the same rights as men in driving licences and traffic rights.

But he added that he has some comments on women drivers, saying they could not act in a good manner when they faced emergencies or accidents in general and when their cars broke down. Women should learn how to deal with emergency cases and some principles of repairing cars, he said.

**Punishment**  
Saad pointed out that the authorities should have stricter punishments for drivers who violate traffic regulations.

There were no revolutionary solutions for traffic problems but their effects could be reduced specially road accidents, traffic jams and air pollution due to the increased number of cars.

Kuwait has a very good road network but motorists and human beings in general are the main cause of the traffic problems.

He added that traffic laws in Kuwait had not yet reached the required stage.

One should re-evaluate the punishments in the traffic law to find suitable solutions.

He added that he had made an analysis of some traffic statistics in 1987. It showed that 80 per cent of violations reviewed by traffic courts were solved peacefully and some others were kept in drawers until the owner of the car visited the GTA for any reason in order to collect the fine from him.

Most of the fines were collected from owners of cars and not from drivers who commit the violations.

The punishments and procedures of tackling traffic violations were very weak from the first stage of recording violations at roads, then from the delay of court procedures, and finally the implementing of sentences against violators.

The fines collected from violators when they renewed their car books were not considered fines but fees because punishment can be effective and fruitful when it is carried out against violators quickly or after a short time.

The delay in implementing punishments did not give positive results and violators might commit many similar or other violations during this period and forget the original or first violation.

The GTA should re-evaluate the punishments in order to make them more strict and decisive in application of the traffic rules, he said.

Saad pointed out that drivers during the 1960s were wiser and more rational than drivers in the 1980s.

The traffic pressure was limited at that time so it was easier to control compared to present time when roads have expanded and spread all over Kuwait and cars increased in number.

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Most of the fines were collected from owners of cars and not from drivers who commit the violations.

The punishments and procedures of tackling traffic violations were very weak from the first stage of recording violations at roads, then from the delay of court procedures, and finally the implementing of sentences against violators.

The fines collected from violators when they renewed their car books were not considered fines but fees because punishment can be effective and fruitful when it is carried out against violators quickly or after a short time.

The delay in implementing punishments did not give positive results and violators might commit many similar or other violations during this period and forget the original or first violation.

The GTA should re-evaluate the punishments in order to make them more strict and decisive in application of the traffic rules, he said.

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# Citizens office cuts Interior Ministry red tape

Move to bolster public trust

THE director of the Citizen's Office at the Interior Ministry, Major Yousef Jaser Al Rajhi, has said that the office has been able to remove all existing barriers between the citizen and the ministry's senior officials, and that since it was established in May 1988, the office had processed 11,875 transactions.

He said that the establishment of such offices at each government agency was in response to the wish of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. The offices had been able to cut red tape and

bring the citizen and official closer and solve many problems.

He said that the functions of the Citizen's Office at the Ministry of Interior were set out by a ministerial decision to bolster public trust in the ministry and its executive organs, receive the public and provide answers to their queries, arrange for speedy handling of public transactions and examine all public complaints and recommendations submitted to the office.

The office could process 241 transactions on a weekly basis, and soon the work

done by the office would be computerised to keep records of the people's transactions, in implementation of directives of the Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Rajhi said.

## Special section

He pointed out that there was a special section to receive women where a number of social and psychology researchers would receive women citizens, study their transactions and then submit them to the minister.

He said that most transactions received

by the office related to everyday life, and for which relevant ministry organs failed to find a solution, they consequently required urgent settling by the minister, who was the citizen's last resort.

The director of the women's section at the Citizen's Office, Samera Abdul Malek, said that the office received many petitions from a good number of citizens daily. These would be examined and then referred to the relevant ministry department or submitted to the minister, depending on the nature of the issue.

# Amir to patronise technology conference

AMMAN, Nov 13, (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah will patronise the conference on modern technologies and their role in developing the Islamic world, which will be held in Kuwait, December 2.

Director General of the Amman-based Islamic Academy for Sciences Dr Anwar Al Balhisi told Kuna here that this important four-day conference will discuss the Islamic world's capabilities in the field of modern technologies and how to boost such abilities.

He added that 150 scientists and researchers from Islamic and non-Islamic countries will take part in this conference.

Dr Balhisi said that the conference will be held in co-operation between the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science and the Islamic Academy for Sciences.

The Islamic Academy held its first conference in the Jordanian capital in 1987 under the theme of Food Security in the Islamic World. The second conference was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on the theme of Science and Technology Policy and Self-Reliance in the Islamic World.

## Education meet

AMMAN, Nov 13, (Kuna): A regional consultation meeting on "Education for all" opens here today in the presence of Arab ministers and prominent figures in the education field.

Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal patronizes the three-day meeting which will discuss the Arab countries' national plans to ensure education for their citizens.



Salem receives Nashat

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received yesterday at his office Secretary-General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, Dr Akram Nashat. Security affairs of mutual concern were discussed.

# Radioactivity in food

## KISR opens training course

THE director-general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Dr Ahmad Al Jassar, opened a training course on ways to detect radioactive pollutants in foods.

Dr Jassar said that the holding of this course in co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reflected KISR's concern to foster co-operation with local, regional and international organisations to achieve its objective.

He said that such co-operation and exchange of expertise in various scientific fields would further step up existing ties between KISR and its counterparts at various levels. He stressed that the training course was intended to introduce and train participants in the detection and analysis of radioactive

pollutants in foods, as part of the national food security strategy requirements.

The head of the Food and Technology Group at the Food Resources Division, Suad Al Houti, thanked all those who actively contributed to organising this course. It will continue till November 16 and deal with the bases for radioactive pollution of food, detection and rating of food pollution by radiation, and the sampling and analysis of polluted food.

Participants in the course come from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey and the Seychelles.

Lectures and discussions would be handled by food specialists from India, FAO, Kuwait's Public Health Ministry and KISR.

# Residents complain of water tanker system

BRINGING water with water tankers is still a practice in Kuwait, due to the fact that some landlords refuse to install water pipes which could transfer government water to flats and houses, so they can save money.

In fact, transferring water with this simple method has many dangers like the possibility of water pollution and sudden water cut due to the unexpected increase in consumption.

A local daily interviewed a number of tenants and tanker owners to look at the issue from both sides.

Jameela Saad stated that she had been filling her flat's water tanks from tankers since she rented the flat at the building. She said that flat residents had repeatedly requested the landlord of their building to install a water pipes network in the building, but their request was refused because this would cost him a lot of money. She added that many landlords would not mind if tenants installed their own water pipes network at their own expense. But most tenants refuse to do so because they are not the owners of the flat and because they will leave the flat in the end.

Abdul Hafiz Saleh a tanker owner pointed out that each tanker owner has a particular group of customers with whom he deals on constant basis. He indicated that despite the large number of customers, most tanker owners face the problem of low profits. He said that the government has fixed a price for water tankers. This is KD1.750 for each thousand gallons of water.

He added that in order to obtain more customers, they start working at 6.00 am each morning. He said that a tanker owner must remain waiting under the hot sun and for long hours sometimes until he gets a call from a customer. Saleh said that one day people will reduce their demand for water tankers because they will depend on government piped water.



President of Sheraton in Kuwait

JOHN Kapiolotas, chairman, president and chief executive officer of the Sheraton Corporation, who was recently named 1989 Corporate Hotelier of the World is on a visit to the Kuwait Sheraton followed by a visit to the Sheraton Hotels in the Middle East.

The designation given by Hotel & Restaurants International magazine is considered a major hospitality industry honour and is presented annually to the hotel chain executive who has done the most to improve the international hotel industry and set the highest standards of hotel performance.

Kapiolotas was feted at a ceremony in Paris in October and is due to be feted at the Sheraton Centre in New York in November.

## UNEP contest

### 24 Gulf schools participate

UNITED School International Arab Regional Office in collaboration with the West Asia Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organised the sixth annual Arab regional painting and essay competitions on environmental topics in May 1989. There were 484 essays and 1238 paintings received from 24 schools all over the Gulf.

In a ceremony at the UNEP office in Salmaniya, Sunday, Dr Osman Saleh, Director and Regional Representative of UNEP, distributed special mementoes to candidates for 39 outstanding paintings and essays selected. All successful candidates who participated in the competitions and obtained 40

per cent marks will be issued certificates. So far a total of 1957 essays and 6096 paintings have been received from the six competitions held so far.

**Enthusiasm**  
In his speech Dr Saleh Osman praised the enthusiasm and participation of Gulf students in these competitions over the years and urged them to continue such work with the same spirit and zeal in future.

Jiya Lal Jain, Secretary General of United Schools International, said the aim of these competitions is to arouse students' interest in campaigning for a cleaner and healthier environment.

# Increased encouragement to farmers

THE chairman of the board of directors and director-general of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah, said the authority decided to increase support for certain agricultural products, to encourage farmers to improve production, both in quantity and quality.

He told a local daily that the import of Iraqi water for irrigation purposes would enable the country to overcome water scarcity problems, pointing out that the authority was considering a possible change in its organisational chart, particularly in the light of the outcome of efforts at sorting out existing shared functions between the government agencies.

He said that obstacles currently impeding the agricultural activities in Kuwait were primarily the arid climatic conditions, the absence of nutrients and essential mineral ingredients from Kuwaiti soil and the high percentage of salinity coupled with water scarcity.

He said that the import of Iraqi water would overcome the current water scarcity problems, be used in land reclamation and meet agricultural

requirements in the country.

He said that barely was a strategic product that topped the list of major constituents of a sound food security strategy in the world, and that the authority gave much attention and encouragement to farmers to grow barley.

He added that the authority would offer farmers all aid possible to make their efforts successful and make available to them pesticides and scientific methods to increase land productivity and yield.

He also said that the authority would undertake the harvest collection and delivery to the Kuwait Flour Mills Company to relieve farmers from the related cost and would ultimately offer to buy the crops at double the international price at the harvest season.

He said that the authority had spared no effort in further developing the output of the agricultural sector in the country by providing all needed technical and financial aid to farmers, and solving all their problems while striving to obtain a produce rich in nutritional value and upto international standards.

# First-of-its-kind 'American' English course

EDUCATION and industry leaders from seven Middle East nations will meet with American educators and businessmen as they visit Arabic-speaking countries this December. Dr. George P. Babcock, executive director for American Career Training International, and Steve Griffith, legal vice-president, will visit the Middle East to introduce a conversational "American"

English course developed by top Arab and American scholars.

This correspondence course has been especially designed for Arabs who desire to conduct business on an international level, according to Babcock. A professional educator, Babcock said the course can help any Arab who wants to learn to speak "American" English, and who already has a background in

reading and writing English.

"Businessmen or students who desire to take this course will study in the comfort of their own home or office, and they will never need to leave the country," said Babcock. "Speaking Professionally" is a six-part course that concentrates on the spoken language. It provides each person with study materials and audio cassette tapes which drill the student in English.

"The person will practice using business dialogues that are typical of American businessmen. He will record his own voice on the tape and send it to the faculty in the US to be corrected," said Babcock. "It is quite individualised so that each student is studying at his own

pace and level. It is designed to make him fluent in English."

The American school distributing this programme is an outstanding vocational school which has prepared more than 50,000 people for business careers. "With our school's commitment to excellence, and the accreditation of the course, the student knows that he is receiving a quality education," said Babcock.

Griffith and Babcock's trip to the Middle East in December will take this course to key figures in education and industry in Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

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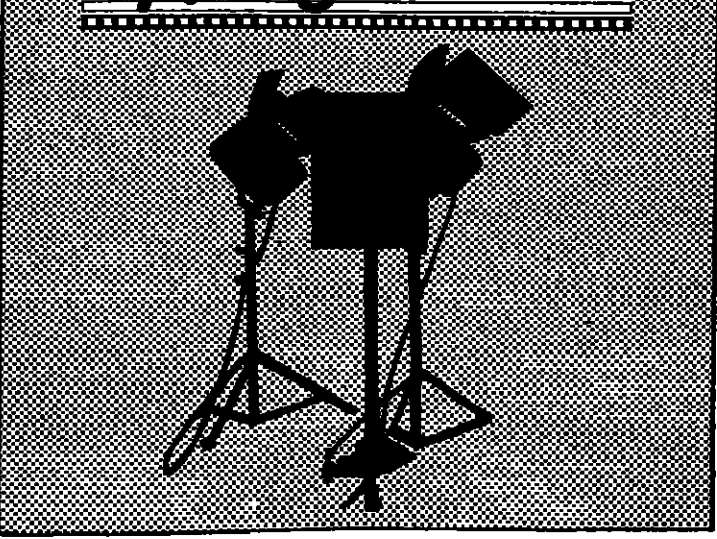
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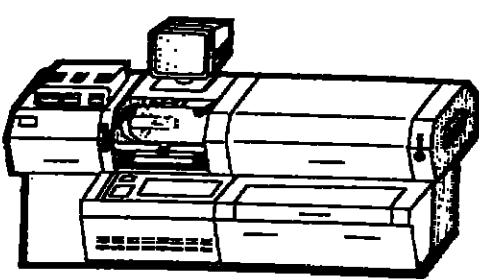
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# KAC in the black for the seventh year

## Iraqi pilots being trained in Kuwait

THE chairman of the board and managing director of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), Ahmad Al Mishari, said the KAC net profits for the period ending June 30, 1989 were more than KD15.7 millions.

He told a local magazine that this figure was the largest ever to have been achieved by the KAC in one year, pointing out that this was the seventh year in a row in which KAC had been able to make profits amidst difficult regional conditions.

He said that KAC was planning to operate a new route to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia from December with one flight per week via Bangkok, adding that the new route fell within the framework of efforts by KAC to expand its scope of activities in the Far East which would cover Indonesia,

Singapore and ultimately Australia.

KAC was considering new flights to the USA, besides its current one to New York, Mishari said.

He pointed out that the executive committee entrusted with the project of setting up an Arab company for the purchase and rental of aircraft would discuss developments on this project at its meeting in Casablanca this month.

He attached considerable importance to co-operation and integration among the Arab carriers following the integration and deregulation of the European markets.

He said this was an urgent requirement which was bound to be more urgent over the next few years.

He pointed out that this step must be decided by a political decision whereby the proposed integration should be able to face up to all situations, pointing out that KAC was prepared to co-operate fully with all Arab carriers in this field, in the pattern followed by Gulf carriers which led to the establishment of the GCC/Marriott Limited for aviation services at Heathrow and the joint Gulf insurance enterprise.

KAC staff were currently training Iraqi pilots on its 747 Boeing mock-up, within the framework of fruitful co-operation with Iraqi Airlines, and an agreement had of late been signed between the two countries for co-ordination in the field of civil aviation, Mishari said.

Meanwhile, statistics prepared by the

Kuwait Directorate General for Civil Aviation showed that 106,618 passengers had arrived in Kuwait on regular and extra flights in October.

This figure was two per cent lower than for the same month last year. The statistics showed that 9,300 passengers left Kuwait in October, three per cent less than last year.

There were 2,171 regular and 92 extra flights in October, an increase of four per cent over 1988. He added that the number of regular flights had been increased by seven per cent compared to 1988, while the number of extra flights had been reduced by 38 per cent compared to last year.

Air cargo movement during October was 7,633,119 kgs, an increase of 16 per cent compared to October last year.

# No unemployment in Kuwait, says Sabah

## CSC to employ all Kuwaitis

THE assistant undersecretary for legal affairs at Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC), Sheikh Mohammed Al Sabah, said there was no unemployment in Kuwait either among citizens or expatriates.

In an interview with a local daily, he clarified that if the expatriate failed to get a job, no residence would be given to him; while for citizens it was impossible to imagine any unemployment among them while the country still depended mainly on the expatriate workforce. He added that the country was importing foreign manpower due to the shortage of nationals.

Alternative

He disclosed that the number of Kuwaitis who had been appointed in the ministries and governmental institutions from July to Sept 15th 1988 had amounted to 10,971 employees with different qualifications,

ranging between intermediate stage to university degree.

He denied that there was a problem due to the increasing number of graduates, adding that supplementary provisions were added to the budget for the appointment of all the graduates and in case of any excess, the CSC would set up the necessary alternatives for absorbing the excess.

The official called amendments in the education system in keeping with long term policy. He said that the admission policy at the university and applied institutes should be decided in the light of local market demands, hinting that this objective could be realised through co-ordination among the authorities concerned.

He added that the Cabinet had adopted a decision banning the appointment in the ministries and the other government ins-

tutions of those whose qualification was less than secondary certificate, in order to give a chance for those who do not have such a certificate to join the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior or to join the vocational training course.

He said the Cabinet had also issued another decision stipulating that Kuwaitis who had an intermediate school certificate should not apply for government employment unless they were over 25 years old.

Regarding co-operation between the government authorities and the CSC, he said that the CSC was providing these authorities with its requirements in employees, but government companies and private ones, were in touch with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and Kuwait University to get their requirements from the graduates.

## Space rescue options discussed

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 13, (AP) Space travellers from West and East today urged spacefaring nations to mobilize resources and know-how to design a universal rescue capability for humans in outer space.

Fifty-five members of the Association of Space Explorers, holding their fifth annual congress in Riyadh, appealed to world powers to set up such a system.

They converged on this Saudi Arabian capital city from the United States, the Soviet Union and 12 other countries to discuss the "Space for Earth."

Saudi Arabian officials said the deliberations were aimed primarily at persuading superpowers to concentrate on harnessing space technology for peaceful purposes.

But US astronaut Charles Walker said the 5-year-old association can merely issue recommendations, relying entirely on the news media to rally public opinion against military uses of space.

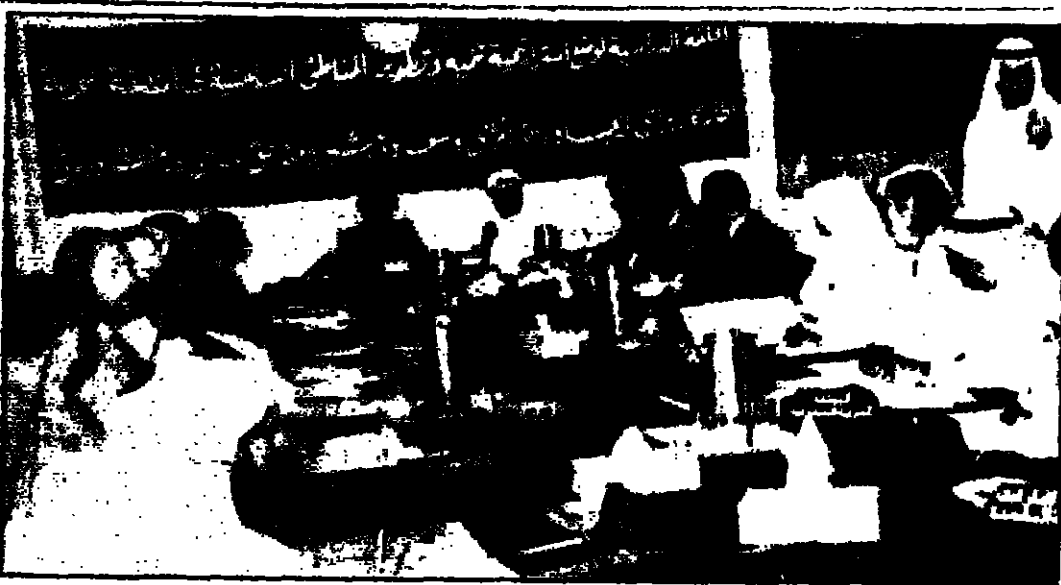
The congress noted the growing number of space flights and examined technical and procedural questions related to a universal rescue system.

The frequency and numbers of people traveling in space has increased dramatically in the last three decades," the congress said in a statement. "Consequently, the likelihood of emergency situations requiring a rescue effort has also increased."

"It is practically impossible for any nation to go it alone as far as rescue in space is concerned," Soviet cosmonaut Alexander Alexandrov told the congress in a speech. "Efforts of all (spacefaring) powers must be united to attain this goal and avoid loss of human lives in space."

The association, which has 72 members representing 17 nations, was reported to be preparing draft laws to govern the proposed space rescue system.

US astronaut Vincent White called for a search-and-rescue system in space.



Environmental panel

COASTAL areas in the Gulf were being subjected to severe pressures due to greater pollution and other destructive factors caused by the increase in factories, oil refineries, water and power stations, the deputy executive secretary and administrative and technical co-ordinator of the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), Dr Badriya Al Awadi, warned.

She was speaking on the behalf of the executive secretary, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, at the opening of a three day panel organised by ROPME on preparing a development strategy to counter the increasing pollution of the coastal areas.

She said that some development projects were carried out without destroying the coastal environ-

ment, but others caused pollution that threatened many forms of marine creatures.

She called for implementing regulations aimed at development and administration of coastal areas and urged the holding of training courses.

She said that ROPME held a course in 1987 for this purpose.

The panel is being attended by environment experts from the eight member states, besides experts from the UN Development Programme. They will study the planning and administration of coastal areas in order to develop projects.

Picture shows Dr Badriya Al Awadi making the opening speech.

## Journalism institute to be set up for Kuwaitis

THE assistant undersecretary for financial and administrative affairs at the Ministry of Information, Yaqoub Mohammad Al Awadi, said that the ministry was currently planning to study the best ways to set up a journalists training centre or institute for Kuwaitis in journalism.

He told a local daily that the minister of information had on one occasion in the past alluded during a press interview to the ministry's intention to set up such a facility with a view to optimising the competence level of journalists and the journalistic profession in the country.

He added that the idea came into being following a series of meetings by the minister with editors-in-chief of local newspapers and weekly magazines, where discussions dealt with views on the programmes and training to be offered by the proposed facility.

Qualifications

Candidates for the journalists training centre should hold a secondary education certificate, already work in journalism or wish to develop their talents, Awadi said.

He added that the number of students to be admitted into the proposed facility would be determined by the number of applications submitted and the spheres of training required, such as editing, advertising, political science, photography, montage and others.

He said some leading newspapers in the country had already offered to provide veteran journalists, Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis to teach at the centre in order to make the whole idea an integrally successful project.

He pointed out that the proposed study period would depend on the individual sphere of training, whether in editing, article-writing, news analysis and others, and that it was a possibility that the study and training period would range from one to two years.

## Overseas call facility

### Private establishment charges high

SEVERAL offices have been set up to exploit the direct dialling facility provided by Kuwait for the benefit of residents. These offices make a good profit by allowing people to use the telephone to make calls to Arab and foreign countries for a higher charge than the official rate.

Many companies and other establishments do the same.

This results in citizens and other residents not requiring the STD service of the Ministry of Communications telephone exchanges.

This practice has appeared openly in Sharq, Salhiya, Hawalli and Fahaheel areas.

Some operators even provide the service on credit.

This illegal use of the telephone has been facilitated by the absence of suitable forms of control.

Interviews were conducted by Al Seyassah newspaper to learn the views of people on this matter.

One person said that such offices were increasing rapidly, but he did not know whether they were licensed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

He said these offices added 50 fils to 100 fils to the ministry's rates.

Most of the customers were expatriates, he said.

Some owners were cautious when talking to the reporter

because they were not sure of his identity, and felt he might be an inspector from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry or the Kuwait Municipality.

Some said there were 30 offices allowing the use of the telephone and each office had been provided with five lines. One owner said that each office had at least two mobile telephones in view of the better service provided by this type of telephone.

Another owner said his office had previously been making a good profit but this had gone down due to the proliferation of such offices, and the subsequent strong competition.

## BAHRAIN DIGEST

### Environ symposium opens in Bahrain

MAJOR United Nations sponsored seminar on environment opened in Bahrain at the Holiday Inn, Monday. The two-day event entitled "Symposium on environment and sustainable development" was hosted under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Committee (EPC) of Bahrain. Jowad Al Arayad, minister of health and chairman of EPC presided over the opening ceremony. The seminar is said to be the first of its kind on environmental factors related to Bahrain and the region to be staged in the country.

During the opening session Khalid Fakhr, vice-chairman of EPC, described the main objective of the seminar as a forum to review and evaluate the achievement of EPC in the island since its inception in 1980.

The EPC was established in the wake of a "dark tide" in the form of the first major oil spill that swept the island's coastline. The damaging consequences posed a serious threat to the country's environment. As a result protection of the environment became a prime concern for the authorities. Over the years the government spent considerable time and resources to protect the environment by combating problems caused by pollution and other factors, said Fakhr.

He praised the role of the United Nations in helping Bahrain in its efforts to control pollution. United Nations experts have made a number of preliminary studies on environment in the island over the years, said Fakhr.

The vice chairman of EPC commented: "Environmental problems in the world have no geographical boundary."

Interference

Wali Shah Wali, resident representative of United Nations Development Programme, said in his speech that significant contribution has been made by national and international experts in Bahrain on improving the environment field in the country. He praised the government of Bahrain for the "high degree of interest" shown by it on environmental matters.

Dr Salih Osman, regional director of United Nations Environment Programme West Asia, said that human interference with nature have caused considerable damage to the environment everywhere in the course of economic development. As a result environmental issues have become a top priority for governments world-wide. Bahrain, he added, has made a positive effort to protect its environment.

### Bahrain Amir receives Chad message

MANAMA, Nov 13, (Kuna): Chadian Foreign Minister Sheikh Ibn Omar today conferred with Bahrain's Deputy Amir Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa and conveyed to him a message to the Amir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa from Chadian President Hussein Habre.

The message dealt with bilateral relations and development of Arabs and African issues of mutual concern, it was announced here.

Ibn Omar, who arrived here from Abu Dhabi last night, earlier held talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa on means of strengthening Chadian-Bahraini ties.

The two chief diplomats also reviewed current developments on Arab and African arenas, on other questions of common interest.

### Crown Prince audiences

KUWAIT, Nov 13, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received at his diwan at Bayan Palace Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber and Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem.

Sheikh Saad also received a number of citizens at the public diwan.

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Indian Naval officers feted at various receptions

Indian Ambassador Arun Kumar Budhiraja and Mrs Budhiraja held a reception at their residence, Sunday in honour of the Flag Officer commanding the Indian Western Fleet Rear Admiral Inderjit Bedi and the officers of the Indian Naval ships INS Gomati and INS Shakti which were here on a four day goodwill visit.

Present at the reception were senior Kuwaiti officials, members of the diplomatic corps and a number of Indian professionals and businessmen.

On Friday the 10th, the Indian Arts Circle hosted a reception at its auditorium in

Funiteers for the men and officers of the two visiting Indian Navy ships. Present on this occasion were Indian Ambassador and his family, Rear Admiral Inderjit Bedi and Captain Rajan and Captain Singh who commandeer the ships visiting Kuwait.

The Naval Band started the day's programme by playing both traditional naval music and some well-known Hindi tunes. Everyone present enjoyed the music. The children seemed especially delighted to see the men in their shining

white uniforms. Unfortunately, because of the weather the band could not do a march past parade which would have delighted the audience even more.

IAC president, Mathunny Mathews in his welcome speech noted that the visiting ships were on a goodwill mission to a peaceful nation that was hosting the Peace and Friendship Games. He remarked that the ships have not only brought goodwill but also good weather. The several previous visits along with the current visit has always been looked upon by the Indian community with joy and

pride.

Rear Admiral Bedi, AVSM, the Flag Officer Commanding India's Western Fleet in a short speech thanked the IAC and members of the Indian community for their welcome and the programme of entertainment.

Real Admiral Bedi then presented to the IAC an insignia of the Western Fleet and a book published by the Indian Navy on the Naval History of India.

The Indian ships left yesterday for a four day goodwill visit to Doha.

## Farm expert in Oman to promote interest in Dubai show

AN agricultural expert is to visit the Gulf states from 12-22 November 1989 to draw the attention of the region's farmers and agriculturalists to the opening in Dubai on Monday Nov 20 of the 3rd Agriculture, Irrigation and Agri-Industry Show for the GCC states, Middle East Agriculture '89.

John Thorneloe, formerly chief executive of the British

Agricultural Export Council, has spent twenty years promoting co-operation and exchange of technology between the UK agricultural industry and the Middle East. Now, as an independent advisor to the organisers of Middle East Agriculture '89, he is visiting Oman to assist in publicising this important trade only event by calling on the important visitor

sources such as the Ministry of Agriculture, universities, chambers of commerce and other institutions related to the application of agricultural technology and expertise.

Manufacturers and suppliers from 22 countries will be displaying a wide range of products suitable for the harsh climatic conditions in the Arab Gulf states. The scope of the show

encompasses agricultural machinery and equipment, livestock and animal husbandry, including dairy and poultry farming methods, veterinary supplies and associated technology, water technology, horticultural production, crop cultivation, seeds, fertilisers and agricultural chemicals. Additionally, visitors will be able to see a range of food processing machinery.

Middle East Agriculture '89 has the full and active support of the UAE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whose centrepiece display will feature some of the outstanding achievements of the UAE's progress towards agricultural self-sufficiency. Saeed Mohammed Al Ragabani, the UAE minister of agriculture will officiate at the opening ceremony.



# ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

To conquer without risk is to triumph without glory —  
Pierre Corneille, French dramatist (1606-1684).

After years of resistance

## House of Commons succumbs to television

COMING soon, to living rooms across the land, an everyday story of politics.

After years of forceful resistance, Britain's venerable House of Commons has entered the television age.

Starting on Nov 21, when Queen Elizabeth delivers her traditional address opening a new parliamentary session, viewers around Britain will be able for the first time to see their elected legislators at work from the comfort of their own homes.

It will hardly be "lights, camera, action," however.

A broadcasting committee has laid down such strict rules on what can and cannot be shown of proceedings in the chamber that some politicians are referring to the pictures coming out of the House of Commons as "The Woodentops," a children's programme featuring Marionettes dating back to television's infancy.

Eight remote-control cameras have been slung beneath the upper gallery and huge, white lamps — dubbed "Chinese lanterns" by members — hung from the ornate ceiling to light up the wood-paneled chamber with its distinctive green leather benches.

### Practising

Before the Commons goes "live" engineers have been practising for weeks, ironing out technical wrinkles in the system and learning to recognise the 650 Members of Parliament, who while in the chamber are addressed by their constituency and not by their names.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's twice-weekly question time, which generally features sharp clashes with Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, and boisterous exchanges between ordinary members known as back-benchers, will be televised live.

Two of Britain's four main television channels will carry a daily round-up of business in the Commons and the Sky Satellite Television Company plans to use the feed from chamber extensively for its non-stop news channel.

The entire proceedings, which regularly last until the early hours and sometimes through the night, will be taped and the tapes stored as part of the official record.

Officially, the cameras have been allowed into the Commons, the lower, law-making body of Britain's two-tier Parliament, for an eight-month experimental period.

But most MPs agree they are unlikely to be removed given the long fight to get them installed. After 11 debates in 30 years on the issue, members finally voted 318-264 in favour of televised coverage in February last year.

### Battle

It was a hard-fought battle, with Thatcher a prominent opponent. But the vote led to further argument among members of the broadcasting committee as they drew up coverage rules even tighter than those in force in the largely-ceremonial House of Lords — the upper house of Parliament — since television coverage began there five years ago.

Apart from a broad general view of the Commons' chamber between speeches, cameras will be allowed to show only the member speaking, in medium close-up.

There can be no zooming in to fill the screen with the MP's face, no shots of other members gesticulating or asleep.

Interruptions, either from the floor or the public gallery, will not be shown. In the event of a disturbance, such as when protesting lesbians swung on ropes from the public gallery into the chamber of the House of Lords two years ago, the cameras will focus only on the speaker of the house, who presides over debates.

Critics say the cameras will encourage further bad behaviour in the often-unruly chamber, citing a rise in noise levels since radio broadcasts began in 1978.

### Publicity

To foil any member planning to act up for publicity, the familiar red light which normally shows when a television camera is transmitting has been omitted from those installed in the Commons.

Supporters and opponents alike have been practising for the big day. Thatcher had a private session in a deserted chamber last month, polishing her performance at the despatch box with a television monitor before her to show how she will appear to millions of viewers at question time.

Television charm schools have reported a steady flow of MPs anxious to look their best on the "box."

Asked about complaints from broadcasters that the coverage rules are a "straitjacket," David Harris — a member of the committee and parliamentary private secretary to leader of the House Sir Geoffrey Howe — said: "They may need to be modified fairly early on. If you start with a fairly strict regime, you can always relax it afterwards."

Alan Yentob, controller of British Broadcasting Corporation's television Channel Two, said the chance to show live coverage of the Commons was "an historic moment for British television and for Parliament itself."

He added: "Notwithstanding the constraints of some aspects of our coverage we intend to seize this opportunity to show our legislators in action." — (London — Reuters)

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1647 — England's King Charles I is recaptured and imprisoned.
- 1775 — American troops under Benedict Arnold invade Quebec province in Canada.
- 1890 — Anglo-Portuguese agreement on Zambesi and Congo grants Britain control of lower Zambesi and colonizing rights up to the Congo.
- 1935 — US President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaims Philippine Islands a commonwealth and pledges by 1946.
- 1940 — German bombers attack English city of Coventry in World War II.
- 1947 — United Nations recognizes Korea's claim to independence.
- 1957 — Britain declares Bahrain independent Arab state under British protection.
- 1960 — Two passenger trains collide in Czechoslovakia, killing 110 people and injuring 105.
- 1976 — Cyclone and giant waves devastate southern coast of East Pakistan and islands in Bay of Bengal, with death toll estimated at 300,000.
- 1975 — Morocco and Mauritania reach agreement on future of Spanish Sahara.
- 1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat says he will address Israel's parliament on Middle East peace if invitation is sent by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.
- 1987 — Italy's Premier Giovanni Goria resigns after tiny Liberal Party backs out of his coalition.
- 1988 — Palestine Liberation Organisation's parliament-in-exile endorses new political strategy that implicitly recognizes state of Israel and renounces terrorism.



Guerrillas of the Angolan rebel movement Unita at their bush headquarters, Jamba. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Africa still in ferment

## Superpower tensions ease

AS in other parts of the world, the years of cold war confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union appear to be ending in Africa.

No more do the superpowers compete vigorously and openly for supremacy in the strategic corners of the continent. Less and less can client states and insurgencies count on an abundant flow of money, arms and other support from the world's two mightiest nations.

In fact, the superpowers have worked in tandem to try to end a civil war in Angola and bring independence to Namibia and their official utterances on the question of apartheid in South Africa sound remarkably alike.

The growing rapprochement between the old adversaries bodes well for some African countries. They are under less pressure to line up with one superpower or another, and can forge aid from trade ties with whomever they wish.

But this had done little to advance peace and prosperity for the vast continent as a whole.

"Even if one could stamp out the effects of war, mismanagement and corruption overnight, the economies of most African countries would still take years and years to recover," said a Western diplomat based in Kenya.

The great majority of Africa's economies have slipped backward throughout the 1980s, a decade of healthy growth in much of the rest of the world.

And because they were never highly advanced in the first place, even the unlikely prospect of a fast economic recovery in the 1990s would leave most African countries far behind the developed nations.

Meanwhile, even as the United States and the Soviet Union reduce their geopolitical manoeuvres in Africa, the potential for conflict remains high between and within many of the continent's nations.

Just a few months ago, peace seemed to be blooming like a desert rose in Africa, nourished by a gentle rain of good works from Moscow and Washington.

A ceasefire was negotiated between warring factions in Angola; a bitter, costly conflict in Mozambique appeared headed for the conference table; a new military regime seized power in Sudan with a promise to end that country's civil war; and the Ethiopian government sat down with Eritrean rebels in Atlanta, Georgia, in a bid to end what at 28 years is the continent's oldest armed dispute.

In recent weeks, however, those visions of peace have faded like a Saharan mirage.

Despite admonishments from Moscow and Washington, fierce new fighting erupted in Angola between the Soviet-backed government and Unita rebels supported by the United States. Preliminary peace talks between church leaders representing Mozambique's Marxist government and right wing Renamo guerrillas came to naught. Ethiopia's Marxist government, publicly urged to seek peace and threatened with an arms cutoff by Moscow, came under new, threatening attack by Tigrean rebels even as it sought terms with the secessionist Eritreans. And civil war in Sudan is flaring anew with little hope of quick resolution.

New conflicts unrelated to the superpowers also have erupted.

Intercommunal violence between Mauritanian Arabs and Senegalese blacks took hundreds of lives in those neighbouring West African countries, which continue to hurl insults and threats at each other. And rival clans seeking power in Somalia, which forms the very tip of East Africa's Horn, are killing each other in disputes that date back to ancient clashes over water holes and grazing territories.

Still, there are a few bright spots and some hopeful signs.

With elections scheduled next week, Namibia appears well and truly on the path to independence in a US-brokered scheme that also brought the short-lived ceasefire in Angola.

Most diplomats feel the renewed fighting in Angola will end soon, with Washington pressuring Jonas Savimbi, the rebel who heads Unita, to return to the bargaining table with President Eduardo dos Santos.

Lasting peace in Angola could bring a real measure of prosperity to the former Portuguese colony, an abundantly fertile land rich in oil, gas, diamonds, iron ore and other minerals.

Few African countries are as potentially wealthy as Angola. Poor to begin with and suffering variously or collectively from years of colonial neglect, inter-tribal conflicts, falling world prices for their basic exports, wars and famines, many have compounded their problems through mismanagement.

In the years after World War II, when most of Africa began shaking off the colonial yoke, country after country turned to Marxist-Leninist theory for economic guidance. In almost every case, that guidance led to ruin.

Today, even such avowed Marxist states as Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are turning toward free-market policies, adopting stringent economic controls and lining up for loans from those twin bastions of capitalism, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Investors, however, are not exactly stumbling over each other in a chase for African profits. That's especially true in the majority of countries without proven deposits of oil or minerals.

Even stable countries like Kenya, which rejected

the socialist path when it came to independence 26 years ago, are having trouble attracting major foreign investments.

The continent lacks infrastructure and a well-educated workforce. Thus, experts note, African countries are at a disadvantage when they compete for investment funds with Taiwan, Korea, Singapore and the other emerging nations of Asia.

Nor can Africa's nations look to much increased aid in trying to build the schools, highways and reliable power and communications systems they need to successfully compete in an increasingly complex world.

The United States last year contributed \$743 million of aid to sub-Saharan Africa, less than Congress approved for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. In 1985, the United States provided \$1.22 billion in aid to the sub-Saharan, but the contributions have fallen since then because of budget constraints.

The Soviet Union, having trouble feeding its own people, gave very little beyond military supplies to a few client states.

The 12 nations of the European Economic Community, Japan and other donors provided about \$13 billion, much of which went for such bare essentials as food and improved water supplies. Most economists do not believe the overall aid figures will increase significantly through the 1990s.

John Barratt, director of the independent South African Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg, sums up the effect of superpower rapprochement on Africa in these words:

"In spite of the new and hopeful international mood, including in our region of Africa, one has to recognize that not one of the regional conflicts in different parts of the world has yet been resolved. Euphoria is therefore premature. (Nairobi — AP)

## Debt mostly overlooked

THE debt of sub-Saharan Africa, where some of the world's poorest nations struggle to subsist, is not the world's heaviest but it is the most overlooked and hardest to bear, experts say.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a term applied to all African countries except for Northern Africa — Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco — and South Africa. The region owes about \$130 billion, most of it to other governments or to international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In contrast, Latin America debt is estimated at about \$430 billion, most of it owed to commercial banks. Therefore, Africa's debt is "not a major consideration in international financial considerations," said Carol Lancaster of the Institute for International Economics, an independent think-tank.

According to the World Bank, 31 countries are members of Africa's low-income debtor group, those with a per capita annual income of \$425 or less.

The biggest debtors, according to the bank's ranking, are the Ivory Coast, with \$13.5 billion in debt, and Nigeria, with \$28.7 billion.

The heaviest immediate burden on Africa's debtors is the payment of interest.

If they pay interest in full, most African countries would use up 30 to 40 per cent of their export earnings. Most countries, however, pay only about 20 per cent of their foreign earnings, either rescheduling repayment of the rest or amassing arrears.

The problem has been exacerbated by the plummeting prices of raw materials on world markets, which resulted in heavy losses of export earnings for African countries this decade, and by poor government management.

The vicious debt circle contributes to another problem, that of disproportionate debt in comparison with the size of the economy.

Lancaster said low-income African states are by far the most indebted group of countries in the world relative to the size of their economy, a fact which discourages investors thus contributing to a steady decline in living standards.

In recent years, the industrialized nations decided to act in concert in order to ease the sub-Saharan debt.

The 1987 economic summit of the world's seven richest economies in Toronto adopted a decision to provide easier terms for rescheduling Africa's payment. (Washington — AP)

### Profile

## Salim Hoss: a moderate striving for unity

SALIM HOSS, a US-educated economist who was named Lebanon's new prime minister on Monday, is a moderate and soft-spoken statesman striving against heavy odds to unite his divided country.

It was the fourth time the 60-year-old Sunni Muslim has taken up the post of prime minister since Lebanon's civil war broke out in 1975.

He champions dialogue among warring factions and political reforms and accepts that Syria, which has 32,000 troops in Lebanon, will always play a special role there.

"A solution for Lebanon should not be negotiated through violence and guns but through dialogue," Hoss said during one of the worst periods of civil war violence that ended in September.

Hoss is married to a Christian, Roman Catholic Leila Pharaon, and has often been described as a bridge between the Christian and Muslim communities.

He headed a pro-Syrian government vying for power with an interim military administration led by Christian Army chief General Michel Aoun when Lebanon was left without a president in September last year.

His cabinet resigned when parliament elected new President Rene Muawad on November 5.

Hoss escaped an assassination attempt in 1984 when a car bomb exploded close to his motorcade in West Beirut.

He refused to leave his West Beirut home throughout the latest six-month bout of shelling that killed more than 850 people.

Hoss has repeatedly voiced fears of partition.

"Dividing Lebanon will be like dragging it into the hundred years war. We vow to you, Lebanon, we will sacrifice everything to restore your unity," he said recently.

He first became prime minister in 1976, a year after civil war broke out, and stayed on until 1980, heading a government of technocrats whose attempts to repair Lebanon's shattered economy were blocked by sectarian conflict.

He served as education minister in the "national unity" cabinet led by late Prime Minister Rashid Karami in 1983.

Hoss was born on Dec 20, 1929. The youngest son of a Beirut pharmacist. He obtained a doctorate in economics from the University of Indiana in the United States after graduating from the American University of Beirut (AUB).

He was an associate professor of economics at AUB for 12 years before holding a succession of senior financial advisory appointments in Lebanon and the Gulf.

By the time civil war broke out, Hoss was chairman of the Development Bank, a partnership between the government and the private sector, and an adviser to former Central Bank governor Elias Sarkis.

When Sarkis became president in 1976, Hoss was taken on as a senior adviser and set to work assessing damage to the economy in the initial stages of the war.

He later became prime minister under Sarkis but his administration was hamstrung by the problems that faced all other prime ministers since the start of the civil war, lawlessness, conflicting loyalties and ideologies and unabated violence.

## Letters to the editor

### Secularism in India

SIR: To stop the conquest of Goa by the Indian Army in 1961, the Portuguese dictator Dr. Oliveira Salazar gave an excuse saying "if Goa falls into the hands of the Indian government, the lives of 30 per cent of the minority Catholic community will be in danger in the midst of the majority Hindus."

Being an historian and intellectual himself, Jawaharlal Nehru was at a loss to give a fitting reply to Salazar. Fortunately for him, one Goan Catholic priest whispered into the ears of Nehru to tell Salazar and all his American, European and other imperialistic-minded friends that "in India there are more Christians than in Portuguese Goa and as a minority community they are well protected by the Indian government than the Portuguese in Goa."

"Salazar should not act as the custodian of Christians. He must know that India has a privilege of receiving and spreading Christianity on its soil through the disciples of Jesus Christ — Apostle St Thomas — much before it reached to Salazar's Portugal."

Nehru was secular by core and his secularism was unquestionable. He would go to any extent to propagate his firm conviction on secularism, and would protect the same even sacrificing his own position. At the time of India's independence, some British political pundits thought that within a few years of independence, Indians would fight among themselves on communal lines and get themselves split, go to the pre-independence level and call the British back to govern India.

Fortunately, for India, because of the superlative qualities of those leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Radhakrishna and their likes, India maintained its firm policy on secularism: where minorities were made to feel more at home. Even at the time of the election of first Muslim president of secular India, Dr. Zakir Husain, ruling Congress Party rose to the occasion and suppressed the dissidents voice within itself and got Dr. Husain to the supreme post.

Now, what is happening in Ayodhya is really sickening. It is nothing but a crushing blow to India's secularism. Like his mother, Rajiv Gandhi is also playing a communal card to appease the Hindu voters. It is now no use to talk of Babar's action committed centuries back. The conquerors of India always imposed their religions on Indians because that was one of their missions.

When Portuguese came to Goa, they demolished many Hindu temples and erected Christian churches. But Goan Hindus who are having a unique secular quality among all other Indian Hindus, are not thinking of revenge. It was OK during those days but definitely not now especially when man is become more civilized and secular. In Ayodhya tension is simply allowed to rise leading to the creation of ill-feelings between Hindus and Muslims. Instead, Rajiv Gandhi, should have used all the powers under his disposal to put an end to the nonsense being committed in the name of religion. To do this, he should be ready even to sacrifice his chair because protection of secularism in India is more important than his own chair. Unfortunately, especially in the election month, he will not, because he lacks the wisdom of his grandfather and because of this, the seeds of communalism will be sown in India more rapidly which may even lead to the creation of one more Pakistan. The present trend in India is to create a fear complex into the minds of minorities and unless this is stopped and unless majority agrees to surrender some of their rights in favour of minorities, Indian secularism will prove to be a big hoax.

A. Veronica Fernandes, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the edition process for space or other reasons.

## Quote me

"There's more power in tennis, and not just in doubles. It's the equipment. You just can't hit the ball that hard with the little wooden rackets. But there will always be a place for the shotmaker in tennis." — Martina Navratilova, countering that high-tech rackets aid tennis newcomers.

"What impact have the failures of socialism, not only in Africa but throughout the socialist world, had on the socialists and Marxists in the ANC? The answer seemed to be — none at all. Their rejection of capitalism is not based on a rational costs-benefits analysis. It is predominantly an emotional response, deeply embedded in their rejection of apartheid." — Stanley UYS, a South African political writer on apartheid.

"The election ends the international dispute that has raged for more than 40 years, since the inception of the United Nations, and which, aside from apartheid, constituted the most important line of attack against South Africa." — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha on the election in Namibia.

"Namibia's independence is of great historic importance for the whole of Africa. It is the last country of the colonial era to gain independence." — P. W. Botha of South Africa on Namibian independence.

"Age isn't everything, I guess. I have to laugh when they say I lost a step. Maybe I lost a half-step, but I've got it back...being eager really helps." — Navratilova after disposing of Brenda Schultz of Netherlands.

"IT just got worse and worse. Every time I tried to find a solution, he came up with a better answer. Today, I had to be on the offensive all the time and could not find a way to do it." — Guy Forget of France on Chang after the latter beat the former in a tennis tournament.

"When you play so well throughout the week and so badly in the final, it's like a punch in the face. I may as well have stayed in the traffic for all the good it would have done." — Guy Forget on his bad game against Chang.

"Everyone says I can't win Wimbledon because it's on grass and I'm a baseliner. I'd like to prove them wrong." — Michael Chang of the US aiming to quash misconceptions on his winning of Wimbledon.

"While denouncing the support provided by the IBM to the Israeli warfare, the OIC asks all its member to strictly apply the Islamic boycott rules against foreign companies any other equipment that might benefit its war efforts." — An OIC statement from Jeddah urging Islamic countries to boycott IBM for selling computers to aid Israel's war efforts.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Oman's economy growing

### Oil price rise may wipe out budget deficit

#### ACC economy

KUWAIT, Nov 13, (Kuna): Diversity of economic systems and structures in the four-member Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) states can not impede their common drive towards economic integration, secretary general of the group Dr. Hisham Nasser emphasized in press statements published here today.

Interviewed in Baghdad by a local daily, Dr. Nasser underlined that such diversity can really stimulate joint efforts by these countries aimed at integrating their economies.

The secretary of the group, first elected last February by Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Arab Yemen, indicated that economic problems faced by the ACC states are almost similar and said efforts are now concentrated on launching joint ventures and investment projects.

#### Aluminium smelter

DUBAI, Nov 13, (Reuters): A Dubai-based consortium has said it will help Algeria build an aluminium smelter at an estimated cost of \$1 billion. The smelter is likely to be completed within three years and its initial capacity of 220,000 tonnes per year could be extended to 330,000 tonnes, the Industrial Development Corp. (IDC) said in a statement on Sunday.

It said the project, to be built with the Algerian public national enterprise, included a power plant and a port. The consortium did not give the location.

#### Jobless rate dips

BRUSSELS, Nov 13, (AP): Unemployment in the 12 European Economic Community countries dipped to 8.1 per cent in September from 9.2 per cent in August and from 9.8 per cent in year-earlier, the EEC said today.

According to Eurostat, the EEC's statistics agency, 14.2 million people were out of a job in August. A figure for September was unavailable because of a new method of counting unemployment levels in the Netherlands.

Eurostat said the largest falls in unemployment over the past year were in Spain, Ireland, and Britain.

#### AACO meeting

DUBAI, Nov 13, (Kuna): The technical committee of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) chaired by Secretary General of the organisation Adil Al Dajani today resumed its meetings here which started last night.

The three-day meeting is studying a comprehensive marketing strategy of Arab airlines companies for additional to offer by four international companies to implement the project.

The conference is to select the best offer and submit a report to the AACO's supreme committee.

#### Yugoslav in Iran

TEHRAN, Nov 13, (Kuna): Yugoslav Minister of Industries and Energy Stjepan Starić arrived here today to take part in the meetings of the joint economic commission, Radio Tehran said.

During his week-long visit, the Yugoslav minister will hold talks with senior Iranian officials over bilateral economic, trade and industrial co-operation.

In statements to Radio Tehran, Starić said his country attaches "remarkable hopes on enhancing its relations with Iran, describing the two countries' relations as 'positive'."

#### Tunisian jobs

ABU DHABI, Nov 13, (Kuna): The Chairman of Tunisian Union for Trade and Industry Hedi Jilani said today that his country is endeavouring to create million job opportunities in the next ten years which would necessitate \$20 billion.

Al-Jilani, in an interview with Kuna, pointed out that his country, under its new government, had moved to private investment because it is more capable to create more opportunities for individuals.

The new Tunisian legislation on industrial and commercial investment provide a lot of facilities for investors, he went on.

#### Israeli exports

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 13, (AP): Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today he expects Israel's military exports to fall due to a world-wide reduction in tensions and dried weapons industries to develop civilian products.

With defence budgets being cut all over the world, Israel will no longer be able to maintain annual exports of \$1.7 billion worth of military products, Rabin said in an address at the nation's leading research institute, the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Rabin said defence sales constitute one-third of all industrial exports.

DUBAI, Nov 13, (Reuters): Oman's economy this year will show the dramatic impact that a few dollars extra on the price of a barrel of oil can make to Gulf oil-producing states.

Oman officials and economists say they are looking forward to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of over five per cent in 1989, and predict that this year's forecast state budget deficit could be wiped out, or even end in a small surplus.

Next year's growth is as always highly dependent on external factors. "But, God willing, we anticipate that we are entering a period of stability," said a Central Bank official.

Oman's 1989 budget forecast a 407.6 million rial (\$1.06 billion) deficit, based on a forecast average 1989 oil price of \$12.50 per barrel. The petroleum sector accounts for about 45 per cent of domestic economic activity.

But the generally unexpected firmer world

oil price this year has led Omani officials to forecast an average \$16 a barrel for their oil, holding out the prospect of the first budget surplus for five years.

Figures just released by the Central Bank show 1988 GDP, calculated at constant prices to give a historically adjusted view of economic progress, grew 5.7 per cent after declining 3.8 per cent in 1987.

However, due to a 21.8 per cent drop in Oman's oil price in 1988 over the year before, nominal domestic growth, which is calculated at current prices, fell 2.8 per cent.

But this year should see both real and nominal positive growth, which should make Omanis feel that much richer in overall terms, independent economists said.

A more stable economic environment after the oil price collapse and upheavals due to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s would be a boon to the government which is trying to formulate its next 1991-1995 five-year plan, the economists said.

Oman has particularly ambitious development plans for agriculture and fisheries which grew rapidly last year but which still account for only 4.6 per cent of the economy.

Oman's desire to create a more balanced economy is because it has few proven oil reserves compared with other Gulf states and, unless further reserves are found, can produce at current rates for only another 20 years or so, the economists said.

Reserves are estimated at 4.3 billion barrels.

A possible problem is the very strength of demand that is arising from growing consumer confidence, the economists said.

Oman's problem, like that of many oil-producing Gulf states, is that any pickup in domestic demand must almost all be matched by higher imports because the manufacturing base is not developed and cannot supply the required goods.

## US building oil strategic reserve

### Sheikh Ali meets Easton

KUWAIT, Nov 13, (Kuna): Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi conferred here today with the US Assistant Secretary of Energy John Easton on bilateral co-operation and issues of mutual interest.

Easton, who arrived on Friday, told Kuna he had a wide ranging discussion with Sheikh Ali which covered prospects of the oil market.

Beside some issues of mutual interest, Easton said "we discussed in broad terms the concept that the United States is considering other ways of financing strategic petroleum reserves."

The meeting was attended by assistant managing director for marketing of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Hani Hussein and US Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson N. Howell.

Easton said the United States will continue to depend on foreign oil supplies despite the country's

promising oil reserves on the outer Continental Shelf and the north coast of Alaska.

"Therefore it is very important for us to have good and stable relations with countries like Kuwait. That is one of the reasons I am here to ensure that our relations continue to be sound and friendly," he said.

Easton arrived after a visit to the United Arab Emirates for the same purpose.

The US energy department is geared to almost doubling the US strategic oil reserve, stockpiled in underground caverns in Louisiana and Texas, to reach one billion barrels over a 10-year period.

The project was first conceived during the Arab oil embargo of the United States in 1974, which caused severe disruptions in domestic supply.

Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in supplying this reserve with oil which would be "leased," and therefore outside the production quota prescribed by the 13-nation organisation, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Recent reports from Washington have made it clear that the two sides have yet to determine the terms of the lease, including price, as well as ownership of the stored oil.

Sources close to the talks in Abu Dhabi said the emirates were cool to the idea.

"The UAE side from the start was reluctant to discuss the US idea of leasing oil and told the American side at the first meeting that this issue was not on the agenda," said one source.

"Discussions have been exploratory in nature without commitment to undertake specific actions," the source added.

Sheikh Ali also received today the board chairman of the French Petroleum Institute (Institut Français du Pétrole) Jean Meo and the accompanying delegation.

Meo said in remarks to Kuna after the meeting that his visit to Kuwait falls in the line of following up issues raised during the visit by HH the Amir to Paris in September.

Members of Opec exceeded their self-imposed, daily production quota by 3 million barrels a day in October, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

## Dollar higher, gold rises

LONDON, Nov 13, (AP): The US dollar was higher against major foreign currencies in European trading today. Gold prices rose sharply.

Dealers said the Deutsche mark regained some lost ground as market players trying to assess the impact of developments in East Germany decided that a flood of East German into West Germany would help, rather than harm, the West German economy.

This week's release of US economic statistics should give the dollar a clearer direction, traders said.

On Tuesday, retail sales, industrial production and capacity utilisation figures will be released. The latest US trade figures will be released Thursday.

Tokyo, the dollar rose to a closing 143.55 Japanese yen from 142.75 yen at Friday's close. Later, in London, it rose to 143.68 yen.

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.5805 from \$1.5765 late Friday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Friday:

■ 1.8615 West German marks, down from 1.8625

■ 1.6410 Swiss francs, up from 1.6370

■ 6.3140 French francs, up from 6.3135

■ 2.1030 Dutch guilders, up from 2.0995

■ 1.3605 Italian lire, up from 1.35475

■ 1.1677 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1694

Gold rose in London to a late bid price of \$391.25 a troy ounce, up from \$386.00 bid late Friday.

In Zurich, the metal rose to a closing of \$390.00 up from \$384.50 bid late Friday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose 1.25 to close at a bid 387.17.

Silver bullion rose in London to a late bid price of \$5.31 a troy ounce, up from \$5.25 bid late Friday.

#### Stocks

SYDNEY: The market slipped lower in a day of listless trading marked by small volumes and a lack of interest. The All Ordinaries index fell 3.6 to 1,628.5.

TOKYO: The Nikkei inched up to a record closing high in scattered moderate trading with the market lacking direction and investors searching for incentives. It closed 86.92 up at 3,750.12.

HONG KONG: Share prices drifted lower in sluggish, directionless trade and meagre turnover. The Hang Seng index fell 10.53 to 2,766.33.

SINGAPORE: Share prices rose over broad front on some bargain hunting and short-covering. The Straits Times industrial index closed 4.45 points higher at 1,336.44.

BOMBAY: Closed for holiday.

FRANKFURT: German shares posted a second day of dramatic gains after East Germany's historic opening of its borders. The Dax index surged 34.27 points to 1,530.96.

ZURICH: Swiss shares closed steady above their day's lows. The All-Share index closed hardly changed at 1,104.5.

PARIS: French share prices closed little changed. The CAC-40 index closed just 0.82 points down at 1,819.51.

LONDON: Shares surrendered most of their early modest gains as Wall Street slipped a few points. By 1:57 GMT the FTSE 100 was 1.6 up at 2,218.3.

NEW YORK: Lack of follow-through interest on light early buying pulled stocks back from small early gains. The Dow was off about a point at 2625.

#### Railway strike

OSLO, Nov 13, (UPI): Norway was today hit by its first major railway strike in 69 years when 16,000 NBS state railway employees downed tools in protest against government austerity cuts.

The all-out protest led to a total shut-down of the 4,200 km (2,600 mi) network with only essential safety personnel remaining on duty.

An estimated 150 passenger trains which normally carry up to 20,000 travellers were cancelled or stopped at intermediate stations.



'Let me finish the deal'

A stock broker hangs on tight to a Tokyo Stock Exchange trading counter to keep his balance amid restless activity as share prices rose 86.92 points to close at a record 35,750.12 after also hitting a record traded high of 35,779.71 earlier in the day. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Japan trade surplus falls

### Tokyo off the hook?

TOKYO, Nov 13, (Agencies):

Japan's trade surplus plunged 39.4 per cent to \$4.66 billion in October from \$7.68 billion a year earlier, the largest fall ever recorded, the Finance Ministry said today.

Booming demand for imports, dramatically weaker exports and a strong dollar were behind the data, economists said. They expected the total 1989 surplus to narrow markedly from last year.

"We should see a significant decline this year," said Soichi Enkyo, an economist at Bank of Tokyo.

"These are made-to-order numbers and they get Japan off the hook for the Gatt meeting this week," said Ken Courtis, senior economist at DB Capital Markets (Asia).

A meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade starts in Tokyo on Wednesday. The world trade body will discuss disputes including those arising from Japan's large trade surplus.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hikaru Matsunaga was quoted as saying today that the surplus would narrow to about \$84 billion in 1989 from \$95 billion last year.

"It's not so much that exports are collapsing, but that imports are up," Courtis said.

Imports in October surged 16.3 per cent from a year earlier to \$18.33 billion. Economists said exports sank to their lowest level since June 1985, shrinking 1.9 per cent to \$22.99 billion.

Strong Japanese domestic demand for wood, timber, pulp,

paper, natural gas and other raw materials helped boost imports, analysts said. Crude oil imports surged.

"Strong Japanese domestic demand is helping import growth," said Chiharu Sumita, economist at investment house UBS Phillips and Drew International.

Analysts noted a 30.6 per cent rise in imports from the European Economic Community in October. They attributed this in large measure to a surge in imports of luxury automobiles after tax changes in April.

Japan's trade surplus with the European Economic Community shrank to \$1.62 billion in October from 2.03 billion a year earlier.

The surplus with the United States narrowed to \$3.84 billion from 4.83 billion. Sluggish US demand for automobiles, as well as an overall slowdown in the US economy, caused a drop in exports there, analysts said.

Economists said the dollar's strength against the yen was still helping shave the surplus by depressing the dollar value of Japanese exports.

But a high dollar could eventually stall the narrowing in Japan's trade surplus, and even cause a widening, by making Japanese goods more competitive against US products, many analysts said.

Japan includes freight and insurance costs in its import figures, but not in its exports.

Gatt talks - Page 12

## Kuwait deposit rates steady

KUWAIT, Nov 13, (Reuters): Kuwaiti deposit rates were steady today in quiet trade.

Dealers said the Central Bank entered the market to buy treasury bills and add liquidity to the market after some rates began firming in the morning.

Overnight was indicated at 8-3/8 1/4 per cent compared to offers of eight on Sunday. Tomorrow-next and spot-next were unchanged at 8-1/2 1/8.

In the fixed rates, one month firmed a marginal 1/16 point to 8-1/2 1/4 and three months 1/16 point to 8-9/16 5-16. Six months to one year were unchanged at 8-1/2 1/4.

The Central Bank left its dollar to dollar exchange rate unchanged.

Short-dated Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates eased as today as government payments injected fresh liquidity into the market, dealers said.

They said the rates eased up to 1/4 point in active business. Spot-next and one week were quoted around 7-1/2, seven per cent and one month around 7-11/16, 7-9/16 per cent.

Three months to one year rates were steady at 8-1/8, 7-7/8 per cent.

The spot riyal was also easier at 3.7506/10 against the dollar.

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Nov 13, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-5/16	8-9/16
6 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
1 year	8-1/4	8-1/2

#### EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.800
Sri Lankan rupee	7.590
Pakistani rupee	14.200
Bangladesh taka	9.200
US dollar	29970
Pound sterling	47375
UAE dirham	08157
Deutsche mark	16090
Japanese yen	003098

## Al Wattari receives French delegation



Belliver and the French delegation in talks with Al Wattari.

THE acting Secretary-General of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), Abdelaziz Al Wattari, received the Ambassador of France to Kuwait, Jean Belliver, and a delegation from the Institut Français du Pétrole, headed by Jean Meo, chairman of the board of administration.

Al Wattari congratulated Meo on his new appointment. He praised the role of IFP in "indigenising" petroleum technology in France and commended those who had contributed to its success. He also noted the co-operation between IFP and research institutes in Opec member countries and referred to IFP's role in training. Moreover, he emphasised the importance of continuing the exchange of views and information between IFP and Opec for the enhancement of mutual understanding.

In response Meo stated that oil producers and consumers had learned from the mistakes of the past and that he felt more optimistic about the future now than he had a year ago. He underlined the importance that IFP attaches to the present visit and to continued ties with Opec.

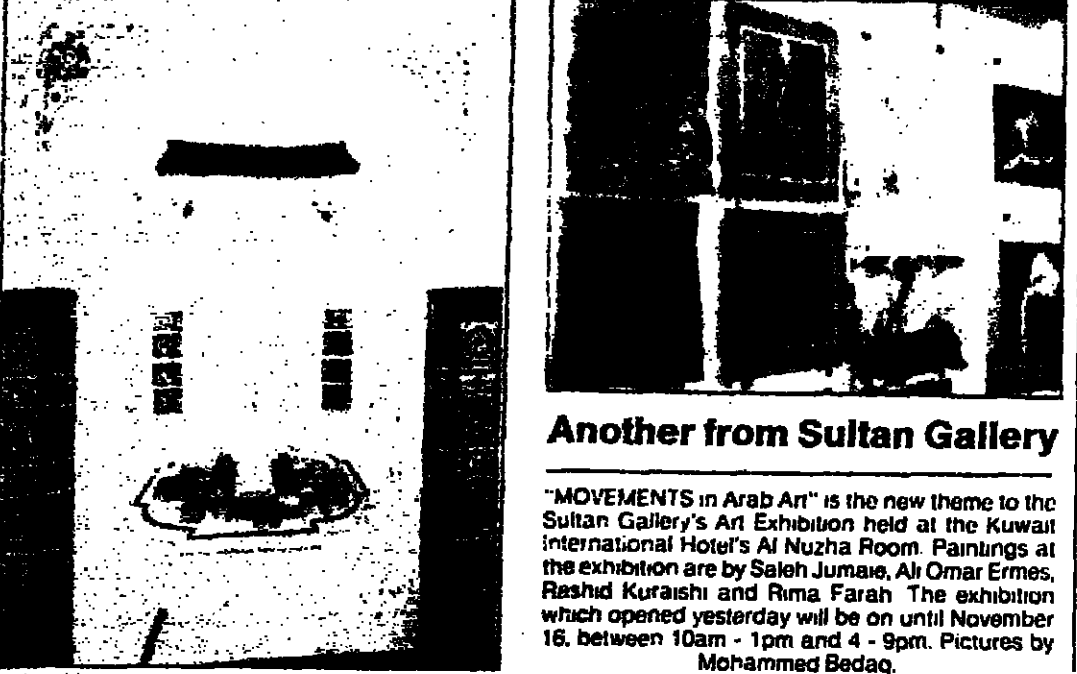
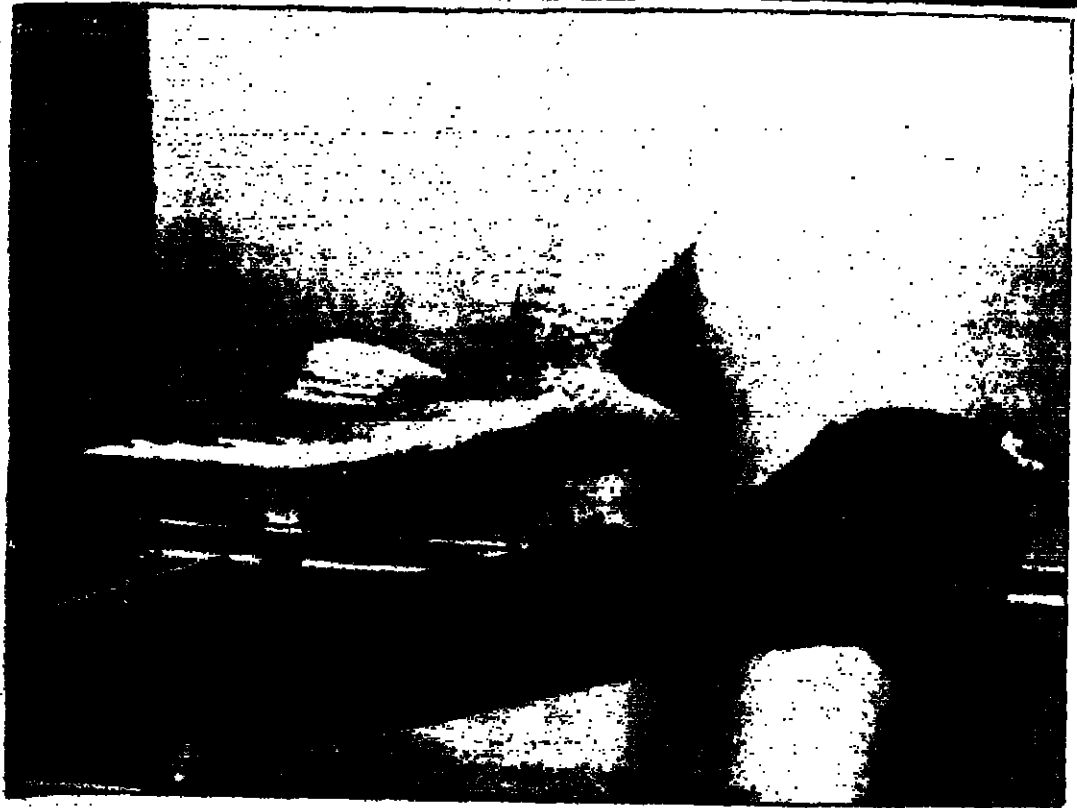
Other delegates also went on to review IFP's programme of activities for the years 1990-94, pointing out that research constitutes 76 per cent of the programme. The institute's research will pay more attention to developing exploration and production techniques because the world will continue to need oil, but new reservoirs will be smaller and more complex than those discovered in the past. It will also focus on developing pollution-free refined products and on converting gas into liquids by chemical treatment.







EVENTS



Another from Sultan Gallery

"MOVEMENTS in Arab Art" is the new theme to the Sultan Gallery's Art Exhibition held at the Kuwait International Hotel's Al Nuzha Room. Paintings at the exhibition are by Saleh Jumaa, Ali Omar Ernes, Rashid Kuraishi and Rima Farah. The exhibition which opened yesterday will be on until November 18, between 10am - 1pm and 4 - 9pm. Pictures by Mohammed Badaq.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

**MORNING**  
9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran  
9.40 Sabah Al Kheir News and Variety  
10.00 Around the World: Cartoon Serial  
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.30 Fi Muntasaf Al Lail: Local Serial (Part 5)  
11.30 Sabah Al Kheir News and Variety  
11.40 Taaleel: Bedouin Serial.  
12.30 News Summary  
12.35 Sabah Al Kheir News

12.37 Holy Quran and Closedown  
**EVENING**  
4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran  
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
4.45 Alice in Wonderland: cartoon serial (Part 18)  
5.15 You and Your Health: Local Programme, prepared by Dr Ghazi Al Khayat and presented by Dr Rashed Al Owaish  
5.35 Summer 89: Local variety programme  
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements  
6.00 Al Islam Hadhara:

Religious Serial (Part 8)  
7.15 Sport Starts: Sports Programme, prepared and presented by Mutlaq Nassar  
7.55 Made in Kuwait: Information Programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi  
8.30 Good Evening and Local News  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Tareq Min Al Sama: Arabic Serial (Part 9)  
10.35 Variety Late Night Show: guest star Ahmad Sodqi (Part 1)  
12.00 News Summary  
12.05 The World Today via

Satellite  
12.25 Holy Quran and Closedown  
**KTV 2**  
6.00 Opening Announcements & Holy Quran  
6.10 Diplodoc. A cartoon series for children  
6.30 The Electronic Office. A scientific programme about the advancement of electronic office equipment and their applications.  
7.00 Watch All Night  
7.30 Fishing in The West.

8.00 News in English.  
8.30 You and the Law  
8.45 The Twilight Zone "The Card"  
9.30 Discover. Developing walking robots ... Rabies ... Vaccinating animals in the wild.  
10.00 Different Life.  
10.30 Murphy's Law. Murphy's ex-wife hires a detective to find any illegal behaviour committed by Murphy so as to deprive him from sponsoring his daughter...  
11.30 News in Brief  
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus  
One Man Force  
Salamiya  
Hall booked  
Al Hamra  
Lawless Land  
Twice in  
Arabic film  
Al Firdous  
Insaf Ki Manzil  
Fahad Open  
Dhan Daulat  
Fahad  
Funny Farm  
Al Jahra  
Rangeen Arun Kiron  
Granada  
Moonam Mura  
Salaibkhat  
Crazy Jungle Adventure  
Jibek  
Aposh

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.49 am  
Zuhr 11.32  
Asr 2.33 pm  
Maghreb 4.53  
Isha 6.13



Hatid-Saya '89

A FILIPINO music and comic show, known as Hatid-Saya '89, was held at the Kuwait Regency Palace on Sunday. Many guests, both Filipino and foreigners, watched the annual performance. The show was sponsored by the seven Filipino organisations in Kuwait. Pictures by Mohammed Badaq.



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

**Islamic Art**  
A SIX week - 12 lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in English at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Sunday and Tuesday mornings from 10.00 - 12.00 noon. October 29 through December 5, 1989.  
An eight week - eight lecture course on Islamic Art will be given in Arabic at the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah on Monday afternoons from 4.00 - 6.00 pm from October 30 through December 19, 1989.  
To register for either of these courses please sign up at the Dar Al Athar during museum hours 8.30 am - 12.30 pm.  
**Watercolour painting**  
LEARN watercolour painting with Patricia Mills. New 8 week course in drawing and painting for adults. For details Tel: 5618847.  
**Hobby centre**  
New Courses in Jewellery making and design for adults.  
For children there is Pottery starting next month for 6 weeks. Tel: 5618847, 5317554.

SOCIAL

**Star Nite**  
DEC 21: Star Nite Stepping Stones have stepped in and with Perfect Strangers it's going to be a nite to Celebrate Yuletide. Fun fare for children and variety programme for others starting from 5-8.30 pm and goes on from 9 pm until sumptuous buffet mid-night. A galore of prizes with Hamper lucky draws under \$55 sponsorship invitations with Shop No. 34 ex New Super Market and contact Tel. 5331940, 2413706 Res.

**Kuwait Goans**  
DEC 15: Annual children's Xmas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance.  
To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

**Navehim Youth Centre**  
NOV 16: An annual get-together nite with live music from "Stepping Stones and Top Ranks" having lots more amusements, surprises awaiting at Le Mirage ballroom - Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Contact: Mr. Alex - 2426334, Mr. Marian - 2416945.  
**Jazz Night**  
NOV 29: In response to overwhelming demand, once again Phil Thomas and the "High Spirits" will be extending their "Jazzical" repertoire for your enjoyment. From 8pm to 12 midnight. Phone: 5640981.

**Daniella Bingo**  
NOV 15, 8 pm: Daniella invites all Dances to Bingo games at the Gazebo club. For reservations please call Inge on 3727690 ext 207 or Karen Marie on 3715146 before November 13.

**The Feast of Our Lady of Rosary, Navehim**  
will be celebrated on 15.11.89, at the Holy Family Cathedral at 7.15 am.

**People's Trust Club**  
DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore. Contact Columbus on 4348218.

**Carnival Night**  
The long waited Carnival Night will be held for the first time in Kuwait with popular bands "Top Ranks" and "Perfect Strangers" vibrating up the Carnival Spirit to bring out their best music ever. So all you folks look ahead for more details through this column for the precise date in the month of February, 1990.

**Yuletide Fayre**  
Do not miss the Yuletide Fayre being organised by St Paul's Church, Ahmadi from 2 pm to 5 pm on the afternoon of Friday, 1st December at the British embassy compound. There will be stalls for Christmas gifts, handicrafts and books as well as for cakes and preserves. There will be entertainment, including Santa Claus, for the children. Refreshments will be available.

**Musical Show**  
DEC 1: Musical Entertainment show at Doha Entertainment City in "Starlight Theatre" with Live Rock 'n' Roll, Pop and Reggae music from the most popular and dynamic beat groups of Kuwait.  
"Top Ranks" and "Next of Kins".  
The Highlights: Fancy dress competition, live stage performance of jive, break dance and solo dancing by Joe Misquitta, Tony & their dancing group. Including many surprises.  
For complete details Twinkle on: 4879455 ext. 298 (4 pm to 9 pm); Hilary, 2649442; John Philip, 2546890 (after 8 pm); Tom and Luiza, 2661370.  
For tickets contact: Andrew at Dreamland Tailor's, 1st floor, above Raja Stores, opp. Canara Exchange.  
NB: Transportation is available.  
**Rock 'n' Roll**  
Nov 22: Spend a night of nostalgia with music from

1955-1965 provided by "High Spirits" at Messilah Beach Hotel. Fulfill your fantasy and dress as your favourite star of the era or just dress up. Also B.B.Q. and prizes. For details please contact 5624111 ext 711, 712 or 703.

**Get together**  
DEC 22: Southerners welcome you once again to a family get-together at Le Mirage Hall at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel at 10 am.

**Thursday Night Fever**  
The Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait will hold another inter-entertainment evening for the beneficiaries of its welfare projects which it conducts in coordination with the Welfare officer of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration. The evening promises rhythmically pulsating dance music for all dance floor aficionados. The project is entitled "Thursday Night Fever" and is scheduled to be held on Thursday, the 30th of November 1989 at 5.30 pm at the Meridian Hotel's Al-Jahra Ballroom.  
Meanwhile FLASSIK invites everyone to join their "LOVE DRIVE." Used clothing, blankets, toiletries and canned goods are welcome. Please contact any FLASSIK officers if you have any donations. And for those looking forward to the yule season we invite you to the "CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT" under the talented conductress Gilda Navarro and the Filipino choir. Watch out for more details.

**Tribute to Hemant Kumar**  
IN FOND remembrance of Hemant Kumar the Indian Arts Circle, in association with Bengali Cultural Society, is arranging a musical evening at the IAC auditorium on Nov 16, 1989 at 8 pm. On this solemn occasion leading singers of Kuwait will pay tribute to Hemant Kumar by rendering his song.  
Free entry passes will be available from the IAC office. For details contact 5621379, 2644863 or IAC 3904817.

**British Council**  
85th birthday tribute to Graham Greene - The British Council is holding an 85th Birthday Tribute to Graham Greene with an exhibit of a set of posters about his life and works during the whole month of November. On Tuesday, 14 Nov., Saturday, 25 Nov and Sunday, 26th Nov., film adaptations of "Brighton Rock" and "The Human Factor" will be shown at the Gallery starting at 5.00 pm. Admission is free but please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.  
Visit the Education Information Office on: Monday, 13 Nov or Tuesday, 14 Nov. If you are interested in courses in Business, Management or Finance.

**Fiesta Extravaganza**  
The Filipino Cultural Club, in its continuous effort to pursue its commitment to promote goodwill, offer wholesome entertainment, and carry out the club's objectives, will be staging Fiesta Extravaganza '89 (An FCC Christmas Special) on 8th December 1989, a Friday, at the plush Hotel Meridian from 5 pm. This 'year-end affair' will be presented by the FCC as a special way of thanking the club's friends, supporters and well-wishers for their continuous support and patronage. As the year 1989 comes to a close, FCC looks forward to being with you for an enjoyable pre-Christmas get-together. Guests can look forward to another very entertaining evening - FCC style, with a sumptuous dinner and a special show for which the club has been widely reputed for. In addition, there will be a raffle draw featuring valuable prizes for many, as well as dancing for everyone's enjoyment.  
Proceeds of the show will be used for the club's welfare projects and surely enough, your kind patronage will go a long way in helping the FCC with their commitment to the less privileged Filipinos in Kuwait.  
A limited number of tickets are now available for KD5 at the following outlets: Philippine Gift Shop at the Souk Al Kabir and Mabuhay Restaurant at the Carlton Hotel.  
For more details, please contact Florence Delos Santos, Tel. 2439451 or 2436121; Toltis Matiga Tel. 2417766; Jun Sta. Maria and other members of the club.

**Kuwait Cultural Centre**  
THE Kuwait Cultural Centre is opening a French Language course to be held on Saturdays and Mondays. For further detail please contact 5624393.

**KUWAIT Little Theatre**  
Ahmadi invite directors and producers interested in putting on a production this season or next season. Anyone interested should meet at the theatre on Sunday 19 November at 7.30 pm.

**December Delights**  
DEC 8: Expatriates Club announces its Yuletide gala-social for children and adults at the SAS 'Tent' Hotel from 0930 hours onwards. Gifts for all children, fancy dress, hamper prizes, lunch buffet, gifts, prizes and surprises from the sponsors and the club. Book early for table reservations. Wilson 3918938, Val 5614506 (after 4 pm) and Tony 5655056 (after 5 pm). Music by Stepping Stones.

**December Delights**  
DEC 8: Expatriates Club

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**British Council**  
Children's Film Showing: Sleeping Beauty.  
Wednesday, 15 Nov. at 6.00 pm.  
Thursday, 16 Nov. at 10.30 am.

Once upon a time, a beautiful princess was woken from a century of sleep by the tender kiss of a handsome prince. The immortal tale of Sleeping Beauty is brought to life in this enchanting film starring Morgan Fairchild, Tahnee Welch and Nicholas Clay. This is superb entertainment for the young and also for the young at heart.

**85th Birthday Tribute to Graham Greene**  
The British Council is holding an 85th Birthday Tribute to Graham Greene with an exhibit of a set of posters about his life and works during the whole month of November. On Tuesday, 14 Nov., Saturday, "The Human Factor" will be shown at the Gallery starting at 5.00 pm. Admission is free but please book seats by calling 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

**Thalia Myers**  
NOV 15: Thalia Myers, a well known pianist will be giving a Piano Recital in the Mousetrap Theatre on Wednesday, November 15th at 8 pm. Tickets are KD4. Her repertoire will be music from Edwin Rozburgh, Haydn, Rachmaninoff, Gabriel Jackson and Brahms.  
For further information please contact Tel: 5313287 & 5313288 from 8 am - 2 pm, Saturday - Wednesday.  
Nov 14: Thalia Myers, will be giving a Master Class for not more than 6 persons at KD5/- per person on Tuesday, November 14th from 4 pm - 6 pm at the New English School, Jabriya.  
For further information please contact Tel: 5313287 & 5313288 from 8 am - 2 pm, Saturday - Wednesday.

**Pianist wanted**  
KUWAIT Little Theatre - Ahmadi urgently require a pianist to help with their pantomime rehearsals and performances. Anyone interested, please call S. Prescott on 3725960 after 3 pm.

**SPORTS**  
Yoga morning classes  
Messilah Beach Hotel yoga

morning classes will commence Tuesday November 28th at 9.30 am, 5 classes to register contact 5624111 ext 739751

**Swimming/Life saving**  
Swimming/life saving courses with Royal Life Saving Society coach and grade 1 examiner will be commencing at Messilah Beach Hotel club.  
For more details please phone ext. 739751.

**Kuwait Welsh Society**  
A "Nosen Lawen" will be held on 16th November, 1989 at 8 pm. New members welcome. For details ring 3713467 or 3721383.

**Punjabi Adabi Sangat**  
THE monthly meeting of Punjabi Adabi Sangat will be held in Abbasiya at 9.30 pm at the residence of Rashid Mewati. Dr Palwinder Singh Jathol and Baqi Ahmed Puri will present articles and poems respectively for criticism. Participating poets will recite their poems at the end of the meeting.  
Carom tournament  
PEOPLE'S Trust Club carom tournament for all Indians will be held on Nov 17 in Caravan's Restaurant, Fahd Al Salem Street, beside Hardees. Draw will be at Caravan's Restaurant at 9 am sharp.

**Kuwait**  
Al Mutawa Pharmacy  
Al Hilali Street  
Baghdad Pharmacy  
Abdullah Al Salem Street  
Hawalli and Nagra  
Zaina Pharmacy  
Ebin Khaldoun Street  
Salamiya and Rumaithiya  
Al Nahdha Pharmacy  
Baghdad Street  
Fahadheel and Ahmadi  
Abu Haleefa Pharmacy  
Coastal Road  
Jahra  
Al Noor Pharmacy  
Al Matafi Street



American Women's League at SAS Kuwait Hotel:

The American Women's League held their October General Meeting at the SAS Kuwait Hotel from 23rd to the 24th. There was a "Kuwaiti Cultural" theme for this meeting. The guest speaker Nour Rajab (3rd from left, top row) is pictured with President Angela Eliopoulos (4th from left, top row) and other board members of the American Women's League of Kuwait.



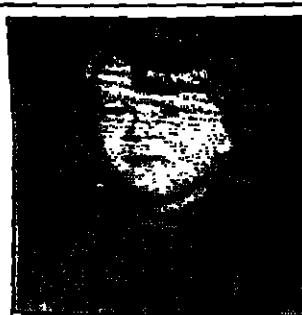
Chaine des Rotisseurs - Al Ghazeer Trip

On November 2nd the SAS Kuwait hotel hosted an informal BBQ and sailing trip on board the famous Al Ghazeer sailing dhow. 35 members and guests attended.



## JUNIOR TIMES

## Happy birthday



Sylvia F. Zaparkova celebrates her 8th birthday today, November 14. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Sylvia goes to the New Indian School.



Salman Saeed celebrated his first birthday, in Gujranwala, Pakistan, on November 12. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Salman likes kissing everybody.



Sara Abdul Hadi Hilal celebrated her 3rd birthday on November 11. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Sara likes watching cartoons and singing.



Prem D'Cunha celebrated his 12th birthday on November 9. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Prem goes to the Indian School Mangat and likes sports, music.



Guinea Singh Luthra celebrated her 9th birthday on November 12. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Guinea goes to the New Indian School.



Nasar Salman celebrated his birthday on November 10. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Nasar goes to Nursery School and likes playing.



Tanya Shariff celebrates her 8th birthday today, November 14. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Tanya goes to the Carmel School and likes swimming.



Fayaz Dhansay celebrated his 8th birthday on November 13. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Fayaz goes to the Indian School and likes studying and playing.



Ahlahm Salim celebrates her 1st birthday on November 15. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Ahlahm likes swimming, dancing and watching cartoons.



Nawab Mukaddam celebrates his 13th birthday today, November 14. Happy birthday from parents and family.

Nawab goes to the Holy Mary Convent High School and likes reading books.



Janice D'Costa celebrates her 5th birthday today, November 14. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Janice goes to the Carmel School and likes dancing and watching TV.



Ehab Mostapha celebrates his 8th birthday today, November 14. Happy birthday from parents and friends.

Ehab goes to the Carmel School and likes watching cartoons.



Mohammed Al Samman celebrates his 7th birthday on November 15th. Happy birthday from parents, family and staff of ICF.

Mohammed goes to Kuwait English School and loves to watch cartoons.



Deepak Sethi celebrates his 6th birthday on November 15. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Deepak goes to the Indian School-Fahaheel and likes cycling.

## Just for laughs!

— a snowman and a man-eating shark?  
Frostbite.

— a cat and a lemon?  
A sourpuss.

— a kangaroo and an elephant?  
Great big holes all over Australia.

— an Axminster carpet and an elephant?  
A great big pile in your sitting-room.

— a fish and two elephants?  
Swimming trunks.

What's the difference between ...  
— a buffalo and a bison?  
You can't wash your hands in a buffalo.

— a jeweller and a jailer?  
One sells watches and the other watches cells.

— a baker and a heavy sleeper?  
One bakes the bread and the other breaks the bed.

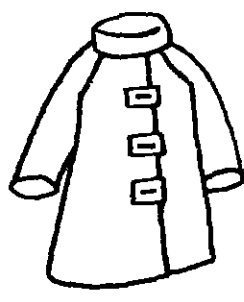
— a butcher and the light sleeper?  
One weighs a steak and the other stays awake.

## What belongs?

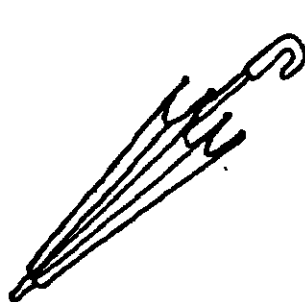
Look at the picture. Colour it. Circle the objects that do not belong.



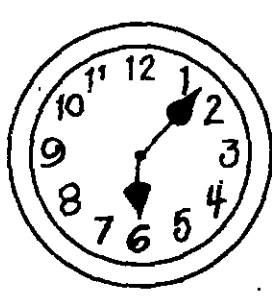
boots



raincoat

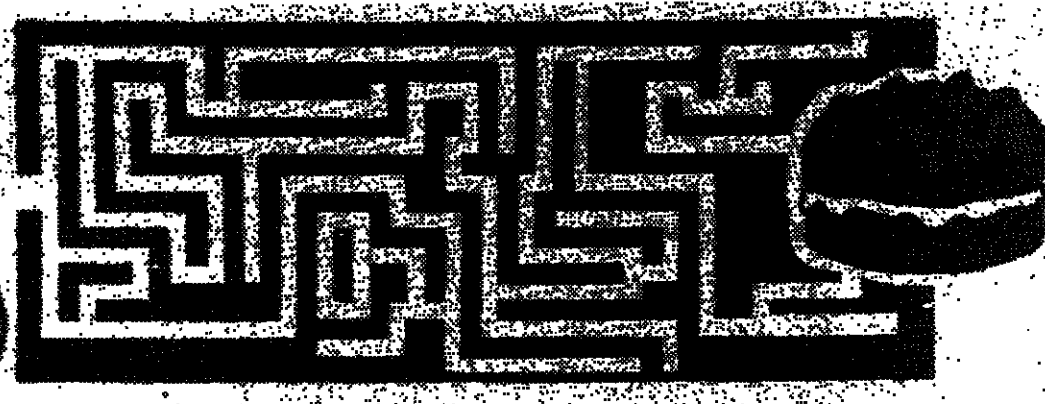
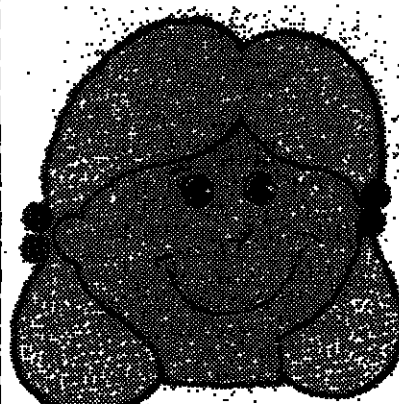


umbrella

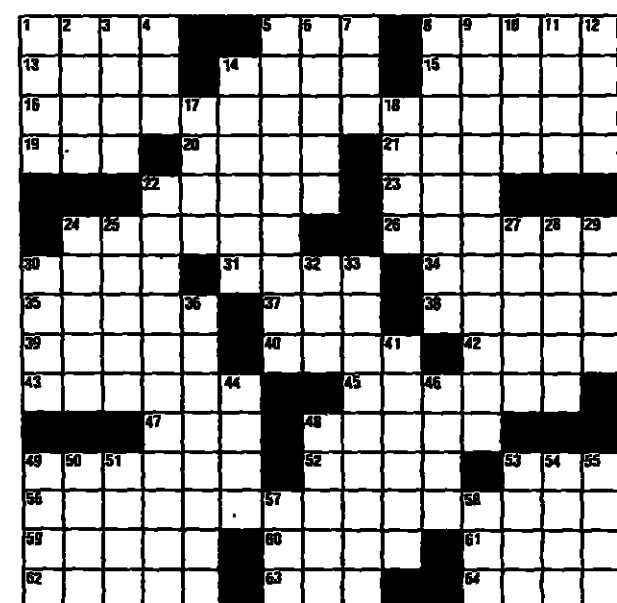


clock

Find a way through each maze



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Display serendipity
  - 5 Syn., oft
  - 8 Muddles
  - 13 Potpourri
  - 14 Shade of green
  - 15 Flye fungus
  - 16 Digger's ditty
  - 19 Kitchen caustic
  - 20 Infer finish
  - 21 Lined up, in London
  - 22 Combo instruments
  - 23 Jardiniera
  - 24 — of the Hesperides
  - 26 Drollery
  - 30 Asperion
  - 31 Men-only do
  - 34 Old German coin
  - 35 Towels off
  - 37 Get wrong
  - 38 Alamagordo's county
  - 39 Of the birds
  - 40 Stew
  - 42 Ingredients
  - 43 Fateful time
  - 43 Crono
  - 45 Pockets a bill
  - 47 Summer, along the Seine
  - 48 Puerto —
  - 49 Loosen bootstrings
  - 52 And wife, in law: Abbr.
  - 53 Churl
  - 56 Victor Herbert operetta
  - 59 Member of the family
  - 60 Pesky insect
  - 61 Otie's slim sidekick
  - 62 Brands
  - 63 Had a snack
  - 64 Heavy weights
- DOWN**
- 1 Pheasant, for one
  - 2 "Now — me down..."
  - 3 River to the Mediterranean
  - 4 Stipple
  - 5 Chasse, for one
  - 6 Favorable margins
  - 7 Gram, gender
  - 8 "— Paradise": Gary Cooper movie
  - 9 Process of adjustment
  - 10 Snow block house
  - 11 Ore store
  - 12 Boer burg
  - 14 Bringers of bad luck
  - 17 Enthusiasm
  - 18 Drink for Caesar
  - 22 Superpatriotic
  - 24 Wide awake and alert
  - 25 Schoolchild
  - 27 — France
  - 28 Harvest goddess
  - 29 Rialto signs
  - 30 Mop
  - 32 "You — There"
  - 33 Be drawn to
  - 36 Seizes
  - 41 Sale
  - 44 Intersect
  - 46 Airport hall
  - 48 Send money
  - 49 Word on a coin
  - 50 Anna Sten role
  - 51 Chance
  - 53 Sergeant
  - 54 "Smorke's dog"
  - 54 — impasse
  - 55 Bleacher creatures
  - 57 Singer Sumac
  - 58 Tampa's time

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CATO PROM COPY  
ARUM TREME HIRE  
SIRS RITANT ALES  
RANKWILLIAMS  
HBO ATA  
LESLIE PATTERNS  
ELMAN FAIR CEP  
HOAGY CARMICHAEL  
APR ODES HEDDA  
RETARDED BAREST  
STE ALI  
HENRYMANCINI  
MATE EASES HOOD  
OPEN TRENT ANNE  
PENIS SARD TAOIS

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠QJ6 ♥Q65 ♦Q962 ♣J72  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q73 ♥9872 ♦J8652 ♣5  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K5 ♥A103 ♠AQ9842 ♣K8  
What is your opening bid?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q106 ♥J752 ♦K10 ♣K984  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AJ7632 ♥J ♦KQ43 ♣A7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠876432 ♥AK103 ♦A74 ♣Void  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
What action do you take?



"Whaddyer mean, 'They don't look like you'? You idiot. They're eggs!"



"I hope I'm goin' to like school, mum!"



"Yes, of course it's a lovely surprise."

## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brian Fawcett and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will find it easier to succeed but you must not underestimate the difficulties nonetheless. Avoid making promises that would be hard to keep. Do not do anything that is liable to give offence. Be reasonable.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You are liable to set off at a tangent. Your private life will take a turn for the better. You must not take any excessive risks, nor should you take the blame for something you have not done. Be more frugal.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The Moon's influence will help you to make up your mind. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 38. Do not do anything that is contradictory. You will find it rather difficult to make up your mind but do not waver. Be tolerant.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will tend to get caught up in detail and should do all you can to take remedial steps. Also watch out for mistakes, both yours and those made by others. You are rather more liable to jump to conclusions. Be generous.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Not everything will go quite the way you would have wished but you will know how to adapt. You should not allow yourself to be distracted. Do not think you are the only one who knows what is what. Be moderate.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will tend to be rather vulnerable and more easily deceived. So try to take great care. Nothing is quite as you would like it to be so you will be rather disappointed. However, there are still some things that could have been a lot worse.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You will tire rather easily so do conserve your energies. And try not to waste time on secondary matters. You should not expect to get everything you would like to have. Be a little more patient.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

There will be a tendency to be forgetful so do make use of every memory aid you can find. You should not bottle up your emotions but nor should you wear them on a string. Take care that you do not put on weight. Be sincere.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Something that you had mislaid will now come to light. What you hoped would not happen will do so, but it will be not be as bad as you had feared. You will find it easier to make up your mind. Be magnanimous.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You will have the wind in your sails but there is a danger that you may 'tail' in the wrong direction. Avoid eating too many sweet or spicy things. Do not stay longer than you are welcome when invited. Be tactful.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You should make sure you do not get caught up in gossip and intrigue. You will not have time to do all you would wish so concentrate on what is most important. You would be wrong to jump to conclusions. Be circumspect.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Make sure you get all the sleep you need and do take just a little more exercise. Look at things from other people's point of view too. Do not try to do too many things all at the same time. Be cordial.



# The joggers

By Julie Hodgson

"ALRIGHT you lot, in line" commanded the P.E. teacher. Oh boy she was a real tough one, this one. The school children got set for the jog, from the Al Huda complex, down the Gulf road, past the Sultan Center, and round the big boat, about 7-1/2 kms away.

Craig, the eldest led them, and the teacher followed them behind, to help any stragglers. Off they went.

"Hey watch out" said Frank, as he was nearly tripped up, by another boy.

It was a warm evening, but not as humid as it had been last week, there were many people jogging that night, even old men, and women with kids. The smell of the sea was lovely, the waves were pounding against the rocks.

The children passed the Sultan Center, one girl flopped down on a chair, she had stitch, the teacher sat beside her, and told her

to take deep breaths.

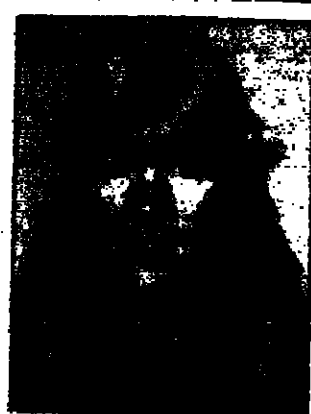
"Always breath in through the nose and out through the mouth, that way you will decrease the chance of stitch," explained the teacher, the rest of the group were jogging slowly on ahead.

When they arrived at the boat, they rested and waited for Sandra, and the teacher to catch up.

Two of the boys started playing around, throwing sand balls at each other, one very wet ball hit Craig smack on the back of his head, the other boys rolled about laughing.

"You should see the look on your face" said an hysterical Jehan. Craig got his own back, he got hold of some slimy green seaweed, and threw it at Jehan, she ducked, and it went flying past her head, and landed on the teacher. She stood there with a clump of seaweed over her face, every one was deathly quiet, wondering what she would do.

They were trying their best to contain the laughter



that was welling up inside them, the teacher picked up the seaweed from her face, and threw it on the ground, her face was red, but she did not say anything, just ordered them to jog back to Huda. I must admit she made the boys responsible, run extra time. As they neared the Huda, with faces red, and all very sweaty, the teacher got them to sprint the last few metres.

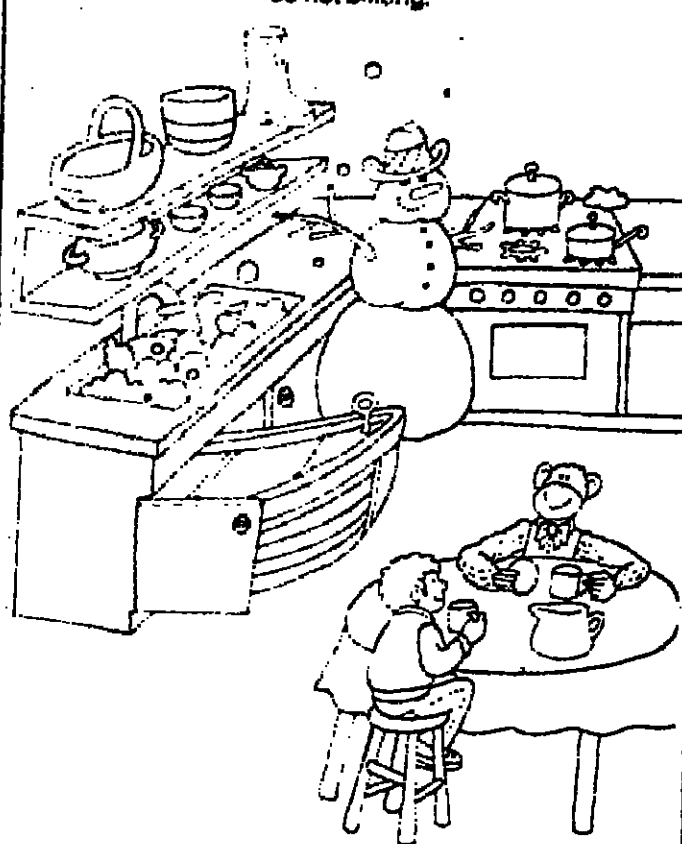
"Oh boy" said Craig, "all that for a lump of seaweed, next time, I'll watch who I aim it at."

"Yes you certainly will" bellowed an angry teacher. "I'll see YOU in class tomorrow, youngman."

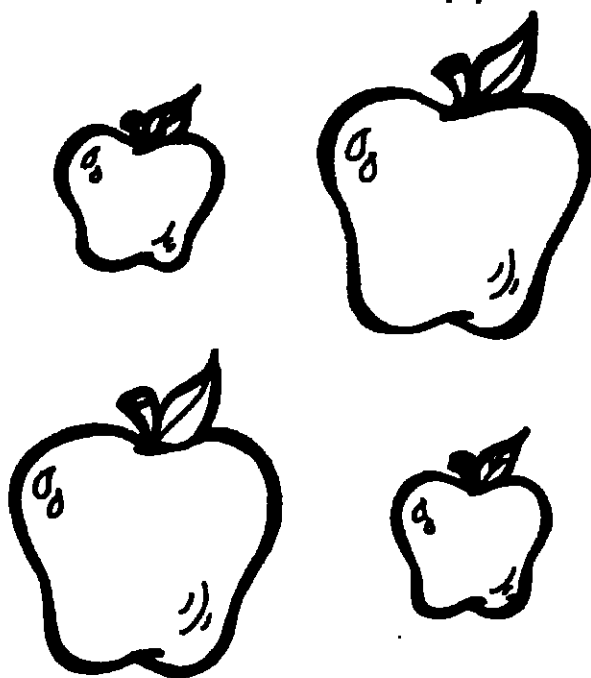
And with that the teacher dismissed all the children and they went to the bus stop, for home.

## What doesn't belong

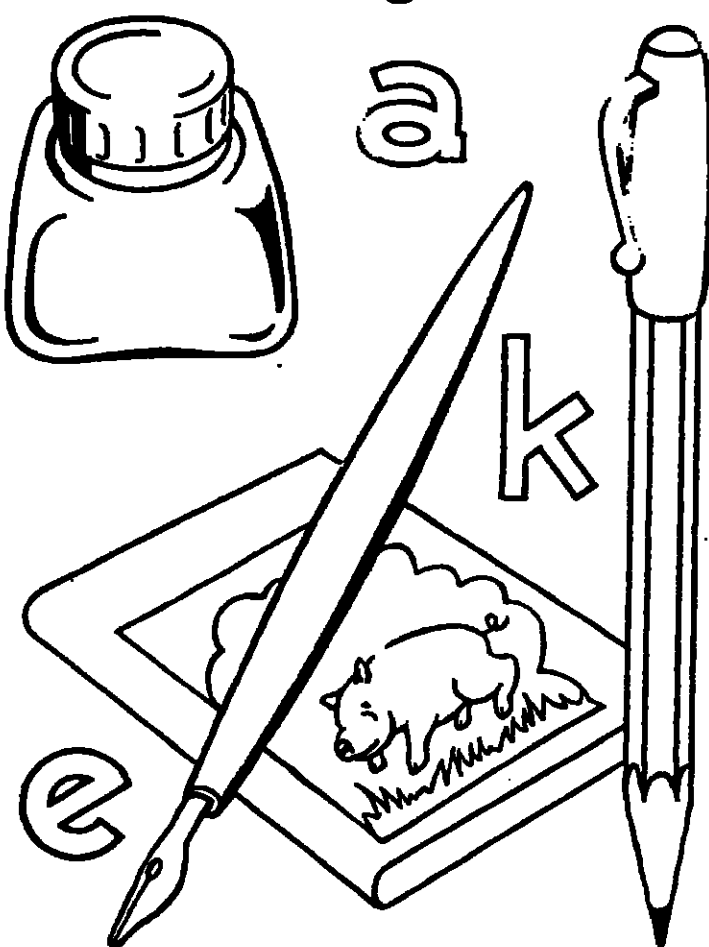
Look at the picture. Colour it. Circle the objects that do not belong.



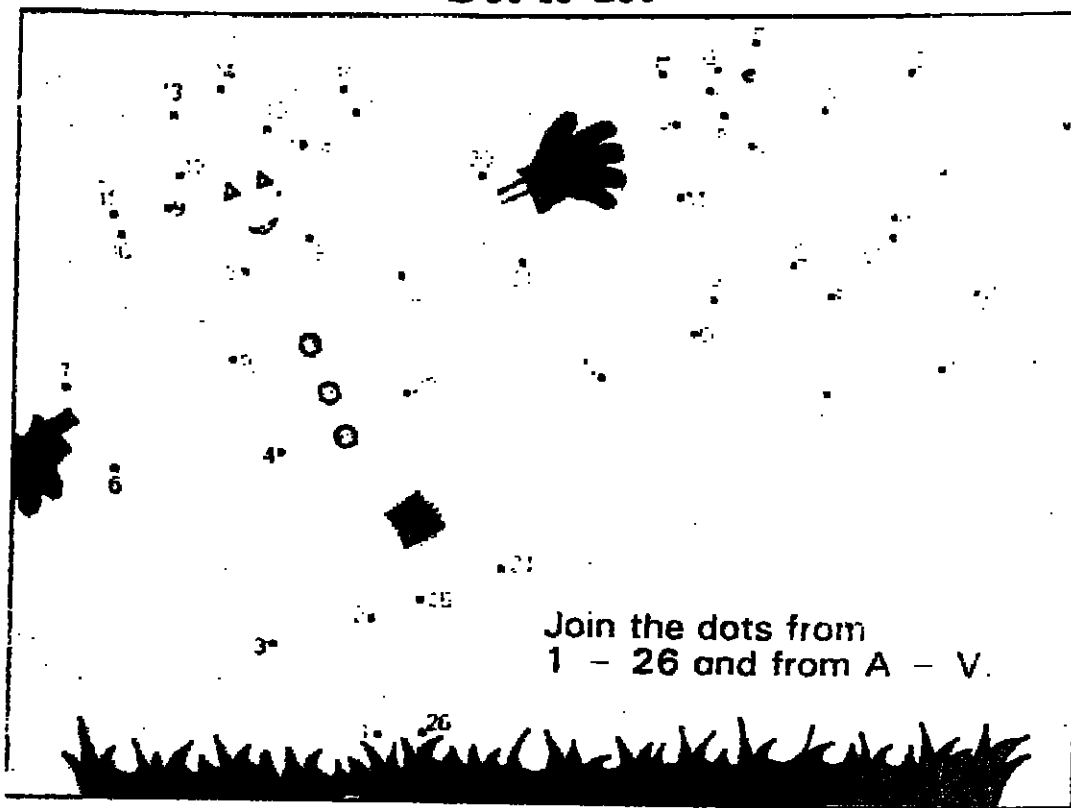
## Circle the small apples



## Colouring time



## Dot-to-dot



Join the dots from 1 - 26 and from A - V.

## Story Sense



## Word search

### CARTOON CHARACTERS

BUGS Bunny  
COYOTE  
DAFFY Duck  
ELMER Fudd  
GARFIELD  
HECKLE  
JECKLE  
JERRY  
LINUS

LUCY  
PORKY PIG  
ROAD RUNNER  
SALLY  
SCHROEDER  
SHIRT TALES  
SMURF  
SNOOPY  
SYLVESTER  
TOM  
TROBETS  
TWEETY

J G B S E L A T T R I H S  
E Y G G I P Y K R O P Y N  
C L T R O B E T S T L R O  
K L J E L H B V O V I E O  
L A D U E H B M E H N N P  
E S C G B W E S F V U N Y  
T Y G B Y H T E J N S U J  
G A R F I E L D T G B R J  
H B F G R Y L J N O K D F  
T A F S G U B M J N Y A H  
D Y R R E J M L E D C O J  
G E L K C E H S S R R R C  
J N B F R E D E O R H C S

## November Scramble

- 1) N O R C
- 2) D A S N I N I
- 3) B E V O E N R M
- 4) M L I P I G R
- 5) N E A R R R B C Y
- 6) M I N K P U P
- 7) Y U T E R K
- 8) V I A S K G T H G N I N

### Word List:

November  
turkey  
pumpkin  
Thanksgiving  
cranberry  
Pilgrim  
Indians  
corn



## Dear Junior readers,

Many schools have started to give vaccinations against dangerous diseases such as smallpox, TB and German measles. If your school is one of such, do not cringe at the sight of the injection.

When I was at school, many, many of my school friends would scream and wail as soon as they caught a glimpse of the white coat and the syringe. They would make such a fuss the headmistress would come out to see who was being tortured!

I could never understand why these people made such a fuss, I could easily convince myself that the little prick was unimportant. I would bravely take the vaccination and then treat myself to a big round lolly-pop!

When you think about it logically, the small prick the nurse gives you saves you from extensive illness...you will be safe from fever, drowsiness, sickness, headaches, sore throats, what have you...personally, I prefer a prick, wouldn't you?

Manal

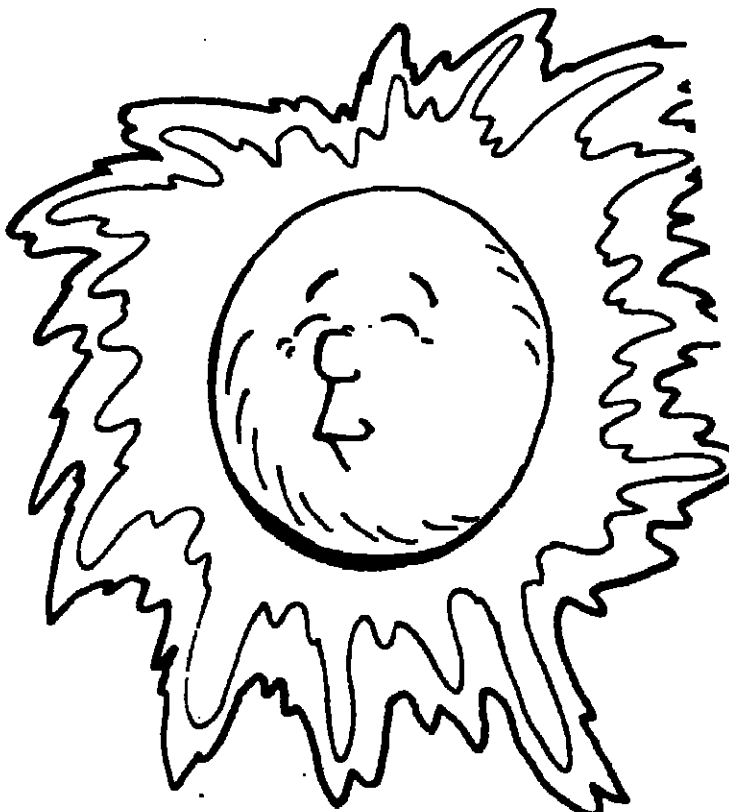
## Just for laughs!

— a forged pound note and an insane rabbit?  
One is bad money and the other is a mad bunny.

— a storm cloud and a child being spanked?  
One pours with rain and the other roars with pain!

## What a day!

1. Ruben got up at 7 o'clock in the morning. He got ready for school in 20 minutes, he ate breakfast in 15 minutes and he brushed his teeth in 5. What time did he leave for school? —
2. During the day, Ruben spent 7 1/2 hours at school. School starts at 8:30. What time is school over? —
3. After school, Ruben has baseball practice for 45 minutes, team pictures take 25 minutes and his walk home takes 15 minutes. How many minutes does he spend doing these things? —
4. During baseball practice, the pitching machine throws Ruben 20 balls the first round, 23 the second and 18 the third. How many pitches does he take in all? —
5. Yesterday, Ruben had 73 pitches. He hit 37. How many pitches did he miss? —
6. After the baseball practice, Ruben walked the dog for 17 minutes. The dog got away and Ruben looked for him for 25 minutes. How much time did he spend on the dog? —
7. When Ruben got home the dog was waiting on the porch. It was 6:15. Ruben ate, did homework and went to bed 3 hours later. What time was it? —



## Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?  
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?  
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: .....  
Date of birth: .....  
School: .....  
Hobbies: .....  
Telephone: .....  
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:  
**ARAB TIMES**

Junior Times  
P.O. Box 2270  
13023, Safat,  
Kuwait

To avoid delayed greetings please send within a week before the special date

## Congratulations



Dina M. Al Morsi obtained a certificate of excellence from school. She deserved it as she really worked hard. Her parents surprised her with a wonderful present and encouraged her to keep up the good work.



# Hypertension can be avoided by nutritional means

As we have mentioned from time to time, control of hypertension, or high blood pressure, has advanced greatly in the United States over the last twenty years. This was begun with the government institution, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute launching a campaign to make all Americans aware of their blood pressure and then to do something about it if it were elevated. Most people have become aware why high blood pressure is sometimes called "the silent killer", that it often causes no symptoms until

the condition results in stroke, heart attack or kidney failure, the three most common complications of sustained hypertension.

As a result of this awareness, the incidence of complications, especially stroke, the most common dangerous one, has declined markedly. Many of the approximately 50 million or so Americans who have elevated blood pressure are receiving pharmacologic treatment that normalizes their pressure. However, despite gratification with this change, there is a legitimate and growing concern about the

balance between benefit and risk with using these drugs for decades, as one with hypertension must generally do. This is especially true for the majority of people with high blood pressure, as it is usually characterized as borderline or only moderately severe. Might the potential risks not outweigh the potential benefits?

As we have also discussed before, a perfectly reasonable way to cope with this dilemma is to attempt to control blood pressure by

lifestyle changes, rather than with drugs. These changes must be instituted relatively early, preferably before hypertension has been established, but at the very least certainly before it has caused any damage.

In order to test the feasibility of this, a group from Northwestern University counselled a group of 201 men and women, who didn't have elevated blood pressure, but who were at risk for developing high blood pressure — they were either overweight, had a "high normal" blood pressure, they were

either overweight, had a "high normal" blood pressure, or a rapid pulse. The study period lasted 5 years, and the participants were instructed as to diet-maintaining normal weight, cutting down on salt and alcohol, and exercising regularly. Half the group received no counselling at all, and served as the controls.

At the end of the 5-year period, those who didn't receive counselling were 2.4 times as likely to have developed high blood pressure as those who did — 19.2 per cent versus 8.8 per

cent. These results are quite impressive because they point out that if the proper lifestyle changes are instituted before high blood pressure develops, the chances of success are great. Also, only modest reduction in risk factors was achieved, something easily accomplished by most people with a little commitment. In addition, several other lifestyle changes that we have talked about, but which weren't used — increase in potassium, for example — could possibly make this type of programme even more successful.

## Keeper of the flame

'Words are everything'

SUSANNAH McCorkle is a woman in love with the golden age of American popular song.

From her you will never hear the tonsil-twisting vocal gymnastics of a belt-it-out rock diva whose songs are so unchanging from show to show they sound computer programmed.

In McCorkle's seamless jazz/pop cabaret style, the great songs of the 1920s, '30s and '40s find emotional warmth and straightforward phrasing. She is a performer for whom the words are everything.

"Once you stop being a kid and wanting music primarily to dance at parties, you want something you can really sit and listen to. The great songs and the great lyrical jazz are rewarding, because they don't wear thin," McCorkle says.

"Real heart and craftsmanship were put into the records. The high quality of the performance touched me as much as the songs themselves."

American-born McCorkle has paid her dues since 1972, when she began singing in London with old-timey swing bands in jazz pubs and dingy little drinking clubs. It was a campy time of platform heels and '40s clothes.

"Some of the places really were squalid," she said, "but I was singing night after night. Sometimes audiences didn't care about a song, but sometimes I could make them care, just by caring about it so much myself."

Now based in New York, McCorkle is in demand across the United States as a club singer. She is just out with her ninth album, the very fine recording "No More Blues," her first for the Concord jazz label.

One recent evening, she opened a three-night engagement at Boston's newest jazz club, Scullers, an L-shaped room swathed in Honduran mahogany.

It was evident very quickly how McCorkle wraps each song around her. Mood and tempo change, yet each delivery is fresh, natural and appropriate.

She stretches the Cole Porter classic "I Concentrate on You" to bring out its wistful melancholy, rifting the word "concentrate" again and again at the end as a horn player would.

Three songs later, she sings Rupert Holmes' The People That You Never Get To Love, a short story of a song that is one of the few contemporary tunes in her extensive repertoire.

"There are some good songs today, but it is a very different time in which songs are being written. It's not of value today to write literature and lasting songs," McCorkle says. "It is of value to write songs with a hook and energy that make a quick killing. The most talented songwriters are not encouraged to write quality material."

"When the Gershwins were young, and Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin were young,



money and popular taste converged. It was just a miraculous time. Songwriters could write the best possible songs and make a whole lot of money from them. That was a special time. I'm not one of the people who harps that we don't have songs like that any more. We live in such different times.

"Then, people knew who was bad and who was good in wars. The depression made people look inward for entertainment and consolation, look to feelings and being inquisitive instead of to material goods. It was a sweeter time."

Much of McCorkle's respect for lyrics comes from the fact she is a published writer, a winner of the O. Henry Short story competition whose articles have appeared in several national magazines.

"I don't do a song unless I like the lyrics," she says. "I'm thinking of word meanings and trying to convey them all of the time. I really love the sounds of words. English is a very evocative language, but very concise too. American English has great flexibility with its colloquialisms."

Her clear, somewhat breathy voice has been compared to a young Billie Holiday, Edith Piaf, Mabel Mercer, Patti Page and even Marilyn Monroe.

"Some of the comparisons are pretty funny," she says. "When people would say 'Oh, you sound just like —' it used to bother me. Now, I think it just means I remind them of somebody they like and think is good."

When McCorkle was in college in the late 1960s and early '70s, American airwaves were dominated by the Beatles, Acid Rock, Joan Baez and the Motown sound. Her exposure to American popular song came during college, when she went abroad to study and heard vintage 1930s Billie Holiday recordings on the radio.

"America was such a sick country I was afraid to live here any more. I had to go to Europe, feel very isolated, and then find something great about America that made me feel I had overlooked something," she said.



Ascot presentation

Models wear hats by British designer Graham Smith. Mussel scoop (left), a straw beret with real mussel shells and 'Jaws' are part of this designer's 1990 Ascot presentation. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Test-tube palm trees

French research under way

PORQUEROLLES, France, Nov. 13. (Kuna): "Test-tube babies? Why not test-tube palm trees?" scientists on this Mediterranean island believe that agriculture in vitro can bring disease-free and ultra-productive date palms at a low cost.

In this haven of botanical gardens, scientists started their research 18 years ago with a conviction in the need for a solution to the desertification in the Middle East and Africa, and in restoring the eminent role the palm tree has played in the economies of these areas throughout the centuries.

In the oasis regions of the world, the main habitat of palm trees, 20 per cent of the land and 80 million people are directly threatened with the continuous process of desertification.

The 100 million palm trees around the world are today in a critical stage as they are increasingly endangered with the fatal disease of "bayoudh" in North Africa, and their excessive ageing in the Middle East.

This research is considered by many as vital to the food security of the Arab world which is the prime region of date production in the world.

The work to scientists in this island off the coast of Toulon in southern France was based on the production of low cost high quality date palms in huge quantities that can face the severe environmental circumstances of each region.

The method of the French research group, spearheaded by the "Total" oil company and the National Institute for Agricultural Research, starts by introducing a tissue of a choice, date palm tree's bud to liquid nitrogen at 196 degree below zero, then transferred through several stages into a test-tube

containing nutritious solution. After seven and half months in the tube, the little plant in the form of a leaf is taken out to be split into three, each reimplanted in a separate tube. The operation is repeated every three months.

Under traditional techniques, it takes 30 years for the production of one million trees from an initial date palm offshoot. Now, in test-tube method, scientists are projecting the production of a similar amount of trees in only 18 months.

The plants are left to undergo a growing stage and allowed to produce roots inside the tubes before being planted in soil. Four years later, these trees bring their first harvest.

The head of the research centre of Porquerolles, Michel Ferri told the Kuwait news agency (Kuna) that his centre has succeeded in the production of 80 kinds of olive trees from the Mediterranean region. Eight kinds of figs, and several kinds of apples, peaches, apricots and tropical fruits.

The date palm research is the latest of the centre's projects, he said.

He maintained that his centre now contains about one hundred thousand tubes kept in 29 degree temperature inside humid rooms waiting for their rooting period.

He added that 1,500 grown plants, which came out of the tube in 1985 in the centre will soon be transferred to Spain, Mali, Brazil and Egypt for further experimentation.

Ferri said the Middle East is the ideal region for this revolutionary method of growing palm trees, and experiments have shown that they can produce while carrying only seven leaves.

He said it will take two or three years before these plants go to

the market because until now, neither the French nor their British and American competitors are able to produce commercial quantities.

Ferri noted that the experiments have shown high degrees of success in the experimental plots in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar where test-tube palms brought their first harvest last August.

In these countries, the date palms were born in test-tubes from tissues of Iraqi and Saudi trees and their dates were identical to those of their mothers.

He said in a two-year time the centre will produce the world-famous "barhee" palms which would eventually bring down their extravagant prices in the Gulf region from \$300 to about ten.

According to head of the palm tree research centre at King Faisal University in Saudi Arabia, Dr Abdullah Al Ghamdi, the experiments of test-tube cultivation in his country were met with a great degree of success.

Dr Al Ghamdi told Kuna that his university is experimenting the French, American and British methods in addition to developing an independent Saudi research.

He said that the French method is favoured because it avoids the "callus" stage, a cancerous period where the tissue is exposed to genetical mutation.

The Saudi expert said the advantage of the test-tube experiment is the assurance of good quality as they reproduce identically to the mother tree.

He explained that without test-tubes a palm tree gives an average of 15 offshoots in its lifetime and only half of them can be productive.

## Consumer advocate

Nader — still campaigning

RALPH NADER sits in a car, the mode of transport that accelerated him to fame as a consumer advocate nearly 25 years ago, reading newspapers and grumbling about the wrongs he feels government and big business are heaping on the people.

Almost every news story contains a potential outrage.

"Look at that," he says disgustedly, pointing to an article about old people facing higher medical costs. "That's a shame."

Nader is being interviewed in the back seat of a car on his way to a television appearance, just two contacts with the media in a busy day.

It seems that his public influence, which peaked during the activist 1960s and 1970s but waned during the eight-year presidency of Ronald Reagan, is on the rise again.

Now 55, Nader is the first to admit that a quarter century seems a long time to keep tilting at the windmills of corporate greed and unresponsive government. But he remains as tenacious as he was in 1965, when his book, "Unsafe At Any Speed," trumpeted the alleged dangers of the Chevrolet Corvair.

Perhaps his only complaint is that it now takes him a bit longer to keep up with a flood of information.

"Newspapers used to be smaller," he sighs as he tries to skim four at once. "Now, it takes me 15, 16 hours a week to keep up."

His return to vogue appears to coincide with a revival of interest in public health issues, ranging from environmental protection to healthy foods and safe and effective medicines.

Nader says he has shifted his tactics somewhat.

Instead of concentrating on single issues like auto safety, he envisions building a nationwide consumer coalition with broad enough support to cover a wide range of issues at once.

"The issues of the '90s are citizen empowerment issues," he says. "That is, giving people the tools to change their substantive ends. Whether it's recycling or environment or consumer, they have to have certain common tools."

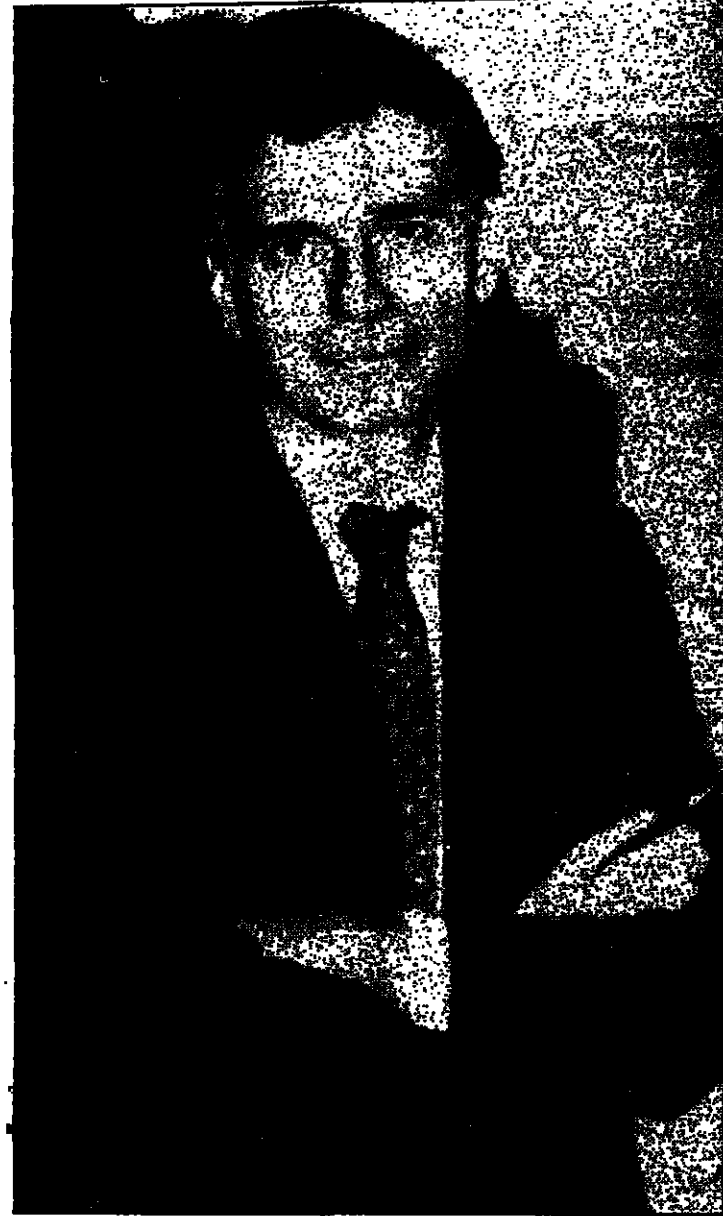
"These aren't glamorous, but without them, it's like being without free speech."

"Citizen empowerment" was the focus of a recent 20th reunion of a group of Nader proteges, popularly dubbed "Nader's Raiders" who first won their spurs battling the US Federal Trade Commission over misleading advertising in 1969.

The Raiders, then mostly eager law students, were drawn into public-interest law and consumer advocacy by Nader. Now, some of them run their own consumer advocacy organisations.

That pleases their mentor, who says the consumer movement must both expand and better define its purposes.

"The consumer movement



Nader: tenacious

produced reports that were well-studied, well-documented, and gave sound recommendations — but there was an aversion to theoretical development as to what this consumer movement really wants in the way of transforming society," he told the reunion.

If the old crusader is setting larger goals, however, his flinty style and legendary tenacity have changed little. The headline on a 1989 magazine cover story on him is identical to one published in 1977: "Why isn't this man smiling?"

"Because he's Ralph Nader," says the 1989 story.

Nader still works out of the small, paper-choked Centre for Responsive Law in Washington. He lives nearby in a studio apartment — still apparently as frugal as the image of monk-like simplicity he projected in his early days when foes tried to dig up dirt on him and found none.

He declines to discuss such matters but reports have it that he lives on \$250 a week and donates the proceeds from speeches and articles to consumer causes.

He has never married.

Aren't the sheer number of

wrongs that must be righted just

too much for him sometimes? Nader shrugs in response.

"That's why you've got to target the ones you know you can win," he says.

He has always targeted his issues well. The Corvair book led to the traffic and motor vehicle safety acts, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in September 1967.

Nader claims the federal highway safety standards that the laws created have saved more than 200,000 lives in the past 20 years.

Throughout the 1970s, he fought and won the passage of laws such as the freedom of information act in 1974, and helped bring about creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

He was instrumental in securing a reduction in California car insurance rates and in defeating a proposed pay raise for members of Congress earlier this year.

Nader attributes an eight-year absence from the public eye to complacency and pro-business sentiment in the Reagan years.

"These things seem to move in cycles," he says.

Return of gallows sought

## Hanging before his eyes

SYD DERNLEY last led a man to the gallows 35 years ago, but he can still see the expression in his victim's eyes.

"The only thing I ever noticed were their looks — the way their eyes stared," Dernley, one of Britain's last surviving hangmen, said in an interview.

"When we walked in there they looked at us as if they were thinking 'this can't be happening to me' or 'they won't do it to me. But by the time they'd stopped thinking that, they were dead.'"

Nearly a quarter of a century after Britain abolished capital punishment, Dernley, 68, still puts the case for hanging as the swiftest and most humane punishment for heinous crimes.

"The truth is that in the 20 years or so before its abolition in Britain, the system of putting a criminal to death had reached a degree of perfection that I believe is impossible to improve on," he argues.

"The execution was over so quickly that the condemned man could scarcely have registered what was happening to him certainly he suffered no pain."

In a new autobiography, "A Hangman's Tale: Memoirs of a Public Executioner," Dernley describes in chilling detail the last moments of the convicted prisoner.

"We went into the condemned cell and the

man was usually sitting at a table in the corner talking to the prison. I'd tap him on the shoulder to stand up please..."

The two hangmen tied the prisoner's hands behind his back and walked him the few paces to the execution chamber. His ankles were bound and a white linen hood placed over his head.

Finally the noose was flicked into place and huge clanging trap doors fell away from under the prisoner's feet. Death was instantaneous. From the moment the executioners entered the cell, the whole process took 10 seconds or less.

Dernley says the prisoners, caught by surprise, seldom spoke or resisted: "They were just resigned."

Did he ever feel pity? No. Like they didn't feel any pity for their victims. I know it sounds cruel, but it wasn't. They'd got to go and they went in the most humane way possible."

Opinion polls show most Britons favour the return of capital punishment, abolished in 1965, but repeated attempts to reintroduce it have always been defeated in Parliament.

The controversy was reignited last month when judges freed three Irishmen and an Englishman jailed for pub bombings in 1974, saying police had lied and doctored evidence to obtain their convictions.

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# Meskhie ends 15-year Soviet title drought

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 13, (Reuter): Sixth seed Leila Meskhie ended a 15-year Soviet title drought in women's tennis when she upset second-seeded Canadian Helen Kelesi to win the \$100,000 Nashville tennis tournament yesterday.

Meskhie, ranked 44th in the world, used her steady baseline game to defeat Kelesi 6-3 6-4 and claim the first primary circuit title of her career.

Olga Morozova, now the national team coach, was the last Soviet to win a final on the women's tennis circuit when she defeated Billie Jean King 1974.

"I've waited a long time," said the 21-year-old Meskhie who had lost her two previous final round appearances.

"I don't feel very much now but when I return home to the Soviet Union my husband, parents and family will be very proud."

Meskhie and the 17th-ranked Kelesi broke for the first three games of the second set as both players had trouble serving.

Meskhie came out on top of the service break battle by capturing Kelesi's serve three times in the second set, while dropping her own twice.

After pulling back from 2-5 to 4-5 down, Kelesi fought off seven match points before Meskhie converted the eighth to claim the \$17,000 winner's prize — the largest pay day of her career.

Meskhie was asked by a tournament official if she wanted to keep the huge display winner's cheque as a souvenir of her historic victory.

"I don't want to be the big one. I want the little one," she said.

## DARTS

### Tyne Tees, Monroes draw 3-3

AS the Mouchel Kuwait Monday Darts League reached one third distance in this season's fixtures, the teams chasing BAGGS for the top of the table position continued to deny each other a clear challenge at the champions.

Monroes found a determined Tyne Tees side in no mood for compromise, as there normally dependable singles' strength withered in the face of the Georgies' performance. Peter Agnew did hit a 140 and Keith Chandler 3 high scores but this did not stop the nice Pluckers from taking an unassailable 3-1 lead. After this creditable start, Monroes and Marilyn re-discovered their form to take both Mickey Mouse legs and all four ladies games to take 3 out of the 4 points on offer.

Leslie Crouchman had the only other bright spot for Tyne Tees as she plucked 3 scoring bulls in one MM throw.

Exiles moved smoothly into 3rd place using a 140 from Tony Robinson and 3 high scores by Nick "Double" Hassell to see off T.C.F., although as Baggs used all their formidable repertoire in holding off Cottar House, in a much closer game than the score might suggest, the gap at the top continues to widen. With a game in hand Baggs can now see daylight between themselves and the rest of the field. Bader continues to lead the team from the front, this week with a 19 dart leg, and despite 3 high scores from rival captain Marshall Byers it was left to C.H. Ladies to answer as they left Nightlights completely in the dark, 0-4, to inflict their first defeat.

Brahms & Liza's hangover continues, going down this time to those rone pulling Campanologists. Stewart Skelhorn produced admirable darts to register another 140 in 4 high scores but still fell to a revitalised Peter Bond 1-2. John Watson also ran up 3 high scores and once again it was the Featherlights who saved the day for the visitors, easing into Appendix 3-1.

Stars of the Yeast girls moved firmly away from the foot of the table with their second win of the season, against Ragabaga, and even though the men came closer than usual, there were still no points for them as Ragabaga ran out 4-2 winners, thus completing this week's fixtures the full results of which were as follows, with Ladies' scores in brackets:

Standings	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1. Baggs	6	4	1	26	10	9
2. Monroes	5	4	1	21	15	8
3. Exiles	6	3	1	21	15	8
4. Ragab	6	2	3	22	20	7
5. Tyne Tees	6	2	2	20	16	6
6. Campan	6	2	2	17	19	6
7. Cottar H	6	2	2	17	19	6
8. T.C.F.	6	2	1	15	21	5
9. Brahms & L	5	0	4	7	23	0
10. Stars of Y	5	0	4	6	30	0

In the rain-delayed first game, UAS pitcher John Dennis threw a three-hit shut-out at All-Japan, and on a cold windy morning

walking none. His opposite number Takeshita also pitched well, giving up only one walk and nine hits. All 12 hits in the game were singles. For the Bazookas, short-felder Toda had two and Takeshita the other.

The teachers scored an unearred run in the top of the first, when Ken Parker got a one-out single. Tim Hendershot was safe on an error. Jerry Cook walked and Al Perry hit a sacrifice fly. The other two UAS runs came in the third. Dave Rojcek and Lorne Bradt led off with singles. Hendershot singled one run home and Cook brought the other in on a sacrifice fly. Both teams showed sound defense, with both infields making many plays, particularly the shortstops and second basemen.

Al Rodier turned in another strong pitching performance for the Eagles, who moved their League-leading record to 6-0 with their victory over the gallant but outgunned FHWA Falcons. The Eagles batted around in the top of the first, sending 11 men to the plate to score six runs. With one out, Alan Burris and Rodier singled and Skip Stombaugh walked to load the bases. James Alderman singled home two runs and Dave Baer walked to reload the bases. Jim Sheldstad singled home two, Nate Howell was safe on an error, and with two out, Jim Smith singled home two more runs.

The Falcons appeared headed for a big first innings of their own, as they put together three singles and two walks to score two runs, but Rodier got out of a bases-loaded jam. With one out, Joe Momany singled, Jerry Cloud walked, KISL president

# Garrison takes title

## Savchenko fails to stop world No. 5



Garrison: outlasts Savchenko

CHICAGO, Illinois, Nov. 13, (UPI): Zina Garrison outlasted Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 yesterday to win the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of Chicago.

Garrison, having the finest season of her seven-year career in bettering her world ranking to No. 5, earned \$50,000 for first place, her third top singles finish this year.

Garrison, who turns 26 on Thursday, defeated Savchenko in the final of the Virginia Slims of California, 6-1, 6-1, in February. She also captured the Slims of Newport in July, and has steadily increased her ranking from No. 11 to start the year.

Garrison came into the tourney the No. 2 seed, while Savchenko, ranked 32nd in the world, was unseeded.

Savchenko, 23 and on the tour since 1984, got into the semifinals when top seed and three-time defending champ Martina Navratilova was forced to withdraw due to a pulled groin and the flu. She then upset third-seeded Helena Sukova in straight sets to advance to the finals.

Savchenko, who is allowed to

keep only 35 per cent of her earnings according to Soviet policy, picked up \$25,000 as the runner-up. She was in the doubles final as well with Soviet partner Natalia Zvereva.

Savchenko broke Garrison in the fifth game of the first set to go up 3-2, using brilliant passing shots. But Garrison followed with a break of her own and easily took four straight games for the set.

Savchenko regrouped to record three service breaks in taking the second set, using an assortment of shots, including a leaping backhand at the net en route to her second break.

The final set was hard-fought the entire way, with both players charging the net for winners. Garrison shook off a break point to hold serve in the fourth game, then cashed in on Savchenko's unforced errors to break in the fifth to pull ahead 3-2. Garrison fought back from double-break point to hold in game six to go ahead 4-2.

Savchenko recovered from match point to hold in the ninth game and trailed 5-4. She had two break points in the final game, but could not cash in.

Savchenko hit a weak defensive lob on match point that Garrison returned for a winner despite a mishit off the frame of her racket.

## Lendl voices support for \$6m tourney

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 13, (Reuter): World number one Ivan Lendl came out yesterday in support of controversial plans for a six-million Grand Slam Tennis Cup next year and criticised other players who have expressed doubts about it.

"I'll play if it's convenient for me, if it fits my schedule," the US-based Czechoslovak said after winning the Stockholm Open Grand Prix.

Many top players have expressed strong doubts about the Cup, the richest tennis event ever.

"I don't understand the attitude of the other players," Lendl said. "They complain, but nobody has definitely said they won't play. I say, either complain and don't play, or play and don't complain."

"I don't spit at someone who gives you money. If you think it's too much money you can always play and give it to charity," he said.

The Cup, planned for West Germany, is to be contested by eight players who qualify on the basis of points earned in the International Tennis Federation-run events — the four Grand Slams and the Davis Cup.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) are running their own professional circuit from next year with a similar format eight-man round-robin Masters, also in West Germany, to conclude the season.

Many players see the Grand Slam Cup as an attempt to undermine their own event, and Wimbledon and US champion Boris Becker has said the amount of money involved damages the sport in the long run.

World number three Stefan Edberg was also critical when he spoke to the press at the Stockholm Open.



Chang: won the London GP title easily

## 17-year-old sets sights on Wimbledon

# Chang silences critics

LONDON, Nov. 13, (Reuter): With his stunningly one-sided victory in the London Indoor Tennis Grand Prix, mild-mannered Michael Chang has gone some way to silencing the critics who said his French Open win was a fluke.

Now Chang is turning his attention to those who consider he can never win Wimbledon. Still only 17, he has plenty of time to prove them wrong.

"Wimbledon to me is probably going to be the most sought-after Grand Slam event because people say I can't win it because it's on grass and I'm a baseliner," said Chang.

"That in turn makes me want to work hard and prove people wrong."

The American, the youngest man to win a Grand Slam event, has big plans to work on his game and make himself, in time, the perfect all-round player.

Crushing

"There is nothing in my game that doesn't need to be improved," Chang said after crushing Frenchman Guy Forget 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in yesterday's London final.

"I want to be able to play anywhere, any surface, any time. I have got to work on my serve and volleys."

At only 1.73 metres, Chang has a disadvantage against some of the big-serving tall players like Wimbledon and US Open champion Boris Becker.

But his speed — something he says he inherits from his Taiwanese mother Betty — makes him a tricky opponent as he dashes around the court to retrieve even the most difficult of shots.

"Tennis is a great equaliser," said Chang, ranked sixth in the world. "If you're big and strong you tend to be slower around the court."

"I think the strength will come in a little time," added Chang, who shuns weight training on his father's advice. "I'm hoping that I can be more of an aggressive player and come in a little bit more and put some pressure on the bigger guys."

Forget, for one, thinks Chang can achieve his ambitions. "He is five years younger than me and already he has won the French," he said. "He has very good potential if he improves his serve a bit more."

Chang has already proved he has the stamina of a champion. At Roland Garros in June he came back from two sets down to beat world No. 1 Ivan Lendl in the fourth round, a match best remembered for the agonised expression on Chang's face as he battled to overcome painful cramps in the fifth set.

Jaite defeats Sanchez

SAO PAULO, Nov. 13, (Reuter): Second-seeded Argentine Martin Jaite capped what he said was his best-ever season by beating Javier Sanchez of Spain 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 to win the Sao Paulo Men's Tennis Open yesterday.

It was his third Grand Prix title of the year — previously he had won at Stuttgart and Madrid — and Jaite owed much of the credit to the weather.

On Friday, shortly after he beat Brazil's Luiz Mattar in the quarter-finals, rain forced postponement of the match between Mark Koevermans of the Netherlands and Francisco Roig of Spain.

Koevermans eliminated Roig but had nothing left when he faced Jaite later the same day and went down 7-5 6-2 in their semifinal.

Then after Jaite beat Koevermans, further rain forced the postponement of the other semifinal between Sanchez and Frenchman Jean Fleuriat.

Yesterday Sanchez, a brother of Emilio and Arantxa Sanchez, needed to hours 20 minutes to beat Fleuriat 1-6 7-6 (7-4) 7-6 (8-6).

He, too, had little left to give against Jaite when they met just three hours later. When he dropped the first set his resistance virtually vanished.

## Ngatia finishes 1st in marathon

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov. 13, (AP): Sam Ngatia won his first Columbus marathon in four tries yesterday and Julie Isphording won the women's race for the second year in a row.

Ngatia, 30, a native of Kenya who now lives in El Paso, Texas, finished the \$10,000 race in 2:11:59. He was followed by Antoni Niemczak of Poland, who finished at 2:12:02, and Michael O'Reilly of the United States at 2:12:06.

Isphording, 27, of the United States covered the 26.2 mile (42.2 kilometre) course in 2:30:43, breaking her 1988 record of 2:31:09, despite pain from tendinitis in her right leg.

Coody triumphs at last

LAS VEGAS, Nov. 13, (AP): The last time Charles Coody won a golf tournament in the US, Richard Nixon was in the White House and PGA Tour pros wore bell-bottoms.

That was 1971, when he out-dueled Johnny Miller and Jack Nicklaus to win the Masters.

The drought ended yesterday when Coody sank a six-foot birdie putt on the second hole of sudden death to beat out Chi Chi Rodriguez and Bob Charles and win the Las Vegas Classic at the Desert Inn.

"One reason it may have taken so long is because I wanted it so badly," said Coody, in his third year on the Seniors Tour.

Coody registered a pair of firsts with the victory: his first Senior Tour win and his first professional playoff.

"I seemed to hit a lot of greens in regulation, but I never seemed to get real close," Coody said. "I had a lot of 12- to 14-foot putts, but never the 4- or 5-footers you're looking for."

But Charles and Rodriguez, playing one group ahead, each made six birdies to tie Coody at 11-under-par 205 on the 6,800-yard, par-72 resort hotel layout.

With a chance to win with a birdie at 18, Coody hit a strong drive, leaving himself with a 110-yard approach to the pin. He left that shot 10 yards short of the green, however, then salvaged par from six feet.

All three players parred the first playoff hole, the 173-yard 16th, before Rodriguez's 30-foot birdie chip from the fringe at the second playoff hole glanced off the pin and stopped inches away. Charles then left a 20-foot birdie putt on the left.

Coody responded by sinking a straightaway six-footer from below the hole at the 395-yard, par-4 17th for his first victory of any kind since 1973, when he won two European events.

Rodriguez finished with a final-round 66, the day's best score.

Seeking his sixth victory of the season, Charles came close to winning on the first playoff hole but left his put inches short. He also was hurt by a bogey at the par-5 15th hole in regulation.

Placing behind Coody, Charles and Rodriguez were Dave Hill at 207, Al Geiberger, who won here in 1987 was next at 209.

## Xiong and Susi outplay opponents

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Nov. 13, (AP): Xiong Guoban of China and Indonesia's Susi Susanti clinched the men's and women's singles titles of the Indonesian Open badminton championships yesterday, Indonesian Republic Television reported.

Xiong, seeded second, disposed of unseeded Joko Suprianto of Indonesia 15-6, 15-4, maintaining his unbeaten record against Joko in their six encounters.

Joko, who upset world champion and top-seeded Yang Yang of China in the semifinals, trailed 0-9, then 4-10 in the first set before falling.

In the second set, Xiong appeared more in control as Joko seemed to lose power.

Susi, Indonesia's ace women shunter and third seed, upset top-seeded Huang Hua of China 11-7, 11-0 in a 34-minute battle.

The men's doubles title went to the Indonesian pair of Eddy Hartono and Rudy Gunawan, who disposed of Malaysian duo Razif Sidek and Jaclani Sidek 15-9, 15-7.

It was the second consecutive victory for the Indonesian duo after seven straight losses to the Sideks, considered the world's best doubles team.

Three of the five finals matches of the \$135,000 tournament were televised nationally by the state-owned television.

The remaining two finals — women's and mixed doubles — were all-Indonesian.

## Malone helps Bullets down Trail Blazers

PORTLAND, Oregon, Nov. 13, (AP): Jeff Malone scored 37 points and the Washington Bullets hit nine free throws in the final four minutes for a 104-95 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers last night.

John Williams had 16 points and Bernard King 14 as the Bullets won their fourth straight game and third without a loss on the road.

Buck Williams led Portland, which lost its fiery home game of the season, with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Terry Porter added 20 points.

Darrell Walker, who finished with nine points, made four of Washington's nine free throws in the final four minutes. Neither team made a field goal in that span.

Supersonics 108, Timberwolves 87

Dale Ellis' 3-pointer ignited a 19-4 fourth-quarter surge during which Derrick McKey scored 10 of his 32 points, as the Seattle Supersonics rallied to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Seattle led 78-67 with 2:33 left in the third quarter, but Sam Mitchell scored eight of his career-high 31 points and Tony Camp-



Walker (left) scored four of Bullet's last nine throws.

bell added six of his 30 during a 14-2 run that gave the expansion Timberwolves an 83-80 lead.

Ellis' 3-pointer with 8:49 left was the first scoring of the fourth quarter for the Sonics, who com-

mitted turnovers on their first five possessions.

McKey followed with a 10-

footer, Michael Cage dunked and Xavier McDaniel made a short jumper before McDaniel scored eight straight points to complete the spurt for a 99-87 lead.

Standings				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Washington	5	1	.833	
New York Knicks	3	2	.600	1-1/2
New Jersey	3	2	.600	1-1/2
Boston	3	3	.500	2
Philadelphia	2	3	.400	2-1/2
Miami	2	4	.333	3
Central Division				
Indiana	4	0	1.000	
Chicago	4	2	.667	1
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	1-1/2
Detroit	3	3	.500	2
Orlando	2	3	.400	2-1/2
Atlanta	1	3	.250	3
Cleveland	1	4	.200	3-1/2
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Utah	3	1	.750	
Denver	3	2	.600	1-1/2
Houston	3	2	.600	1-1/2
San Antonio	2	2	.500	1
Dallas	1	4	.200	2-1/2
Minnesota	1	4	.200	2-1/2
Charlotte	0	5	.000	3-1/2
Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	5	1	.833	
Portland	4	2	.666	1
Seattle	3	3	.500	2
Phoenix Suns	2	2	.500	1
Sacramento	2	3	.400	2-1/2
Golden State	2	3	.400	2-1/2
LA Clippers	1	3	.250	3







## SPORTS

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Holes-in-one

DUBLIN, Nov 13, (Reuters): Two Irish brothers playing in a Dublin golf tournament both hit holes-in-one of the same course on the same day. Statisticians reckoned the odds against their repeating their weekend feat were 50 billion to one. Tom Plunkett struck first with a hole-in-one at the 145-yard 12th on Dublin's Elm Park course. His brother Oliver followed suit a few minutes later in the sixth.

## Choking incident

LONDON, Nov 13, (Reuters): Soccer referees were urged today to be on the alert after England international David Rocastle swallowed his tongue and nearly choked to death. The call came from Rocastle's Arsenal team-mate Brian Marwood, the players' representative at the English League championships.

## Selection policy

LONDON, Nov 13, (Reuters): Britain's athletics bosses have changed the controversial selection policy which cost Sebastian Coe a place in last year's Seoul Olympics. The selectors voted yesterday to throw out the system of automatically selecting the first two finishers at nominated trials — a policy which has also cost mile world record holder Steve Cram a place in January's Commonwealth Games.

## NHL games

NEW YORK, Nov 13, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:

NY Rangers	4	NY Islanders	2
Philadelphia	6	Edmonton	5
Winnipeg	3	New Jersey	3
Minnesota	3	Calgary	2
Chicago	6	Toronto	3
	4	Hartford	2

## Japan Cup

TOKYO, Nov 13, (Reuters): French-trained Top Sunrise may run the Japan Cup horse race on Nov 26 as a replacement for Behara, one of the eight foreign runners, the Japan Racing Association (JRA) said today.

## Former champion

MONTREAL, Nov 13, (Reuters): Doctors yesterday said former Olympic champion Victor Davis' condition was "almost hopeless" and they will make a decision today about whether to remove him from a life support system.

## Test trio

DUBLIN, Nov 13, (Reuters): New Zealand included three Test forwards against Irish provincial rugby union side Connacht tomorrow, although the match should be the easiest of the tour.

## Clark called

LONDON, Nov 13, (Reuters): Chelsea defender Steve Clark has been recalled by Scotland for Wednesday's deciding World Cup match against Norway following the loss of Liverpool's Steve Nicol with a neck injury.

## Welsh strikers

BIRMINGHAM, England, Nov 13, (AP): One of Welsh football's all-time great strikers Dai Astley has died at his home in Kent. Astley, who was in his early 80s, joined Charlton in the 1920s and went on to play for Aston Villa and Derby County.

## Friendly games

BRUSSELS, Nov 13, (UPI): Belgium will be able to play two extra friendly internationals to prepare for the 1990 World Cup final found by rounding off the national competition earlier, the Royal Belgian Soccer Federation said today.

## Hungarian 'keeper

ANTWERP, Nov 13, (UPI): Belgian First Division soccer club Antwerp has signed Hungarian 'keeper' Karoly Gelei until the end of the season, the club said today.

## 'England can clinch Cup'

LONDON, Nov 13, (Reuters): Italian defender Franco Baresi believes traditional fighting spirit could help England win the soccer World Cup next year.

"I think England can go all the way because they are famous fighters, one of the best teams in the world for battling until the final whistle," Baresi, who lines up for Italy against England in a friendly at Wembley on Wednesday, said.

"They work together as a unit so well. I don't know any other side which knits so tightly or works so hard for each other," he told Shoot soccer magazine.

Baresi believes England are among five countries with a chance of winning the 1990 World Cup, which will be staged in Italy in June and July.

"The only sides who can match them are Brazil, Argentina, West Germany and Italy," he said.

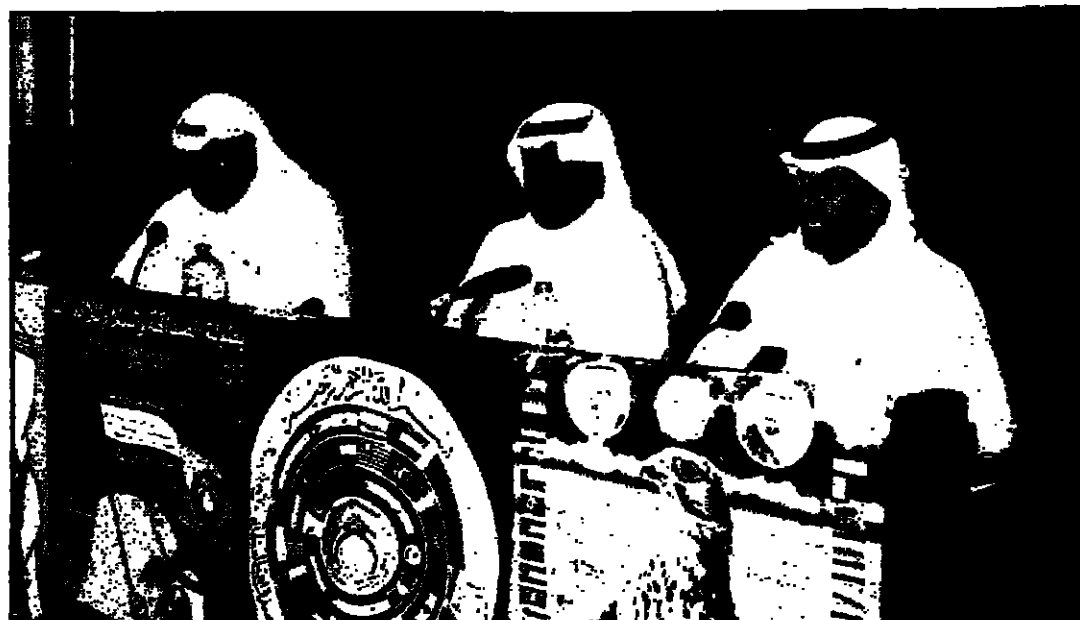
## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Hubera Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

N/S: 1. Salman Ali & George Sharning second; Nabil Akol & S. Chaudhary and Gajjar & Jaggi E/W.

1. Lolli Muthwaite & Dona Materny 2. Mrs Percira & Mr D' Souza 3. George & Shanti

Sheraton Bridge Club game will be held today at Hotel Continental at 8:00 pm instead of at Sheraton.



Sheikh Fahd (centre) at the press conference



All the officials at the Olympic Day listen to the national anthem.

## Championships cost only KD1.7 million

## Games will be held on regular basis: Sheikh Fahd

THE Peace and Friendship Games will be held on a regular basis — every four years — Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, the chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and deputy chairman of the first Peace and Friendship Games, announced at a press conference in Kuwait yesterday.

Sheikh Fahd said that the International Committee for Peace and Friendship Games, formed under his chairmanship by the heads of delegations who attended the Games, will exert every effort to ensure the continuity of the Games. He added that the committee had already made extensive contacts and "an Islamic country has already agreed to organise the second Peace Games," but Sheikh Fahd declined to name the country saying it will be announced later.

Last week the Senegalese Sports and Youth Minister, Mukhtar Abdulla, who was in Kuwait to attend the Games, had announced that Senegal will seriously study the possibility of organizing the second Peace Games. The head of the Senegalese delegation, Ahmad Jah, had also said that his country

was ready to organise the Games. Senegal is the next chairman of the Conference and the next OIC summit will be held there.

Addressing the press conference at the Kuwait International Hotel to mark the conclusion of the 14-day long Peace and Friendship Games, Sheikh Fahd announced that Kuwait is ready to extend any kind of help to any country in organising the Games. "What we care for is the continuity of the Games and that peace and love prevail the world over," Sheikh Fahd emphasized.

Sheikh Fahd stressed on the importance of the Peace and Friendship Games and its influence on the Olympic movement saying: "It would push the international Olympic movement 100 years ahead." He also stressed that the International Committee for the Peace and Friendship Games is not a substitute for the Islamic Sports Union and there is no rivalry between the two bodies.

About the costs of the Games, Sheikh Fahd said that the costs did not exceed KD1.7 million. He said

that Kuwait is ready to organize sports events much bigger than the Peace Games, but what is important here are the goals and objectives of such events.

He reiterated the great success achieved by the Games, saying that all the competitions were held without any protest or violence, perhaps for the first time in sports history. He said that the Games have proved that sports is a stronger weapon than political interference and the initiative of HH the Amir to hold the Games also proved that sports is not restricted to spend the leisure time of youths. "It's a vital humanitarian activity that can have noble influence on humanity as a whole," Sheikh Fahd stressed. "He refuted all the rumours and anti-propaganda launched against the Games before they started."

Sheikh Fahd said that critics claimed that the Islamic nation was lazy and incapable and we proved them wrong. They also claimed that Kuwait did not have the infrastructure to organise the Games and again we proved them wrong. He thanked and praised all

those who actively contributed to the success of the Games.

Sheikh Fahd predicted that there will be no obstacle for organizing the Games in the future.

"Kuwait has made every thing easy and won the international recognition and we don't require new licences to hold the Games a second time," Sheikh Fahd said. He spoke extensively about the goals achieved by the Games, particularly in gathering the Muslim youths and the great spirit that prevailed during the competitions.

He added: "Kuwait has sent invitations to all OIC members and Islamic organizations including the Islamic Sports Union and its president, Prince Faisal Bin Fahd who apologized for some reasons, and we realize those reasons."

Members of the Islamic Union attended the Games and one of the vice-presidents Datu Hamza did not reply. He said that Hamza was behind Malaysia's withdrawal but the Malaysian sports minister ordered his country's participation.

He refuted rumours that the Games had cost KD25 million,

stressing that the costs were slightly less than KD1.7 million. Sheikh Fahd announced that the non-Racial Sports Commission will meet in Kuwait in February next year and IOC chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch and 22 members will attend the event. But he said that the idea of holding games to fight racial discrimination will not be discussed.

Sheikh Fahd told the newsmen that "good news will be announced during Olympic Committee meeting in Tokyo next year about Palestine membership in the IOC." He added that the meeting of the Palestinian sports officials with Samaranch in Kuwait will greatly help in admitting Palestine to the IOC.

Sheikh Fahd said that there is no intention of inviting non-Islamic countries to participate in the next Peace and Friendship Games but players from other religions belonging to Islamic countries can participate. He said that Afghanistan was not invited because of the suspension of its membership in the IOC.

## Kuwait and GCC Olympic Day held

THE 3rd GCC Olympic Day and the 6th Kuwait Olympic Day was held at the Kuwait International Hotel yesterday.

The celebrations were patronised by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, who deputised the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad to attend on his behalf.

Many sportsmen from the GCC states were honoured during the celebrations, including 82 Kuwaiti athletes.

Five top officials from the GCC states were also honoured at this function, including Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad. Sports officials from all the GCC states attended the event.

Sheikh Nasser also held a dinner banquet last night, in his capacity as the chairman of the organizing committee of the Peace and Friendship Games, for the heads of various delegations to the event.



Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahd (right), the vice-president of the Kuwait Handball Association, being honoured for his contribution to the sport. (Photos by Ahmed Barouni)

## Hopes for 'Berlin Games' increase

BONN, Nov 13, (Reuters): The crumbling of the Berlin Wall has given a major boost to hopes that East and West Berlin might stage the Olympic Games together in 2004, leading sports officials said today.

West Germany already planned to put the city on top of its list of Summer Games candidates if the East-West German political situation made a joint Games feasible.

The political upheavals in East Germany have transformed what were just hopeful dreams a few months ago into a realistic possibility, officials said.

Berlin last staged the Games in 1936 when black American Jesse Owens won four gold medals and upstaged what Hitler had intended as a showcase for his notions of Aryan supremacy.

"The recent developments have certainly put wind in the sails of the idea of East and West Berlin holding the Games," West Germany's veteran International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Willi Daume told Reuters.

"I've always thought of it as being a very realistic idea. But let's not get too hasty, there is a long way to go yet. They are 15 years away," added Daume, chief organiser of the 1972 Munich Olympics, the last held on German soil.

"I can imagine the idea will receive good support in the IOC which has always aimed to foster humanitarian action and world peace. For instance, they have always supported the idea of a joint East-West German Olympic team."

East and West Germany entered combined teams at the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympics before competing separately for the first time in 1968.

East Germany's newly-found openness, manifested by last week's decision to allow its citizens to travel freely out of the country, has also moved to the field of sport.

Last week it admitted for the first time that some of its athletes had tested positive for banned performance-enhancing drugs.

In the past East Germany, one of the world's big medal-winning nations at summer and winter Games, vehemently denied that its sports stars took drugs.

The communist state is keen to cash in more on the success of its athletes on the increasingly lucrative international circuit and also realises that the Olympics could help its economy.

East German Athletic Association chief Heinz Kadow said the country would send athletes to all of next year's European Grand Prix meetings and hoped to earn around a million dollars from their appearance money and victory bonuses.

East Germany's National Olympic Committee spokesman Volker Kluge said joint Berlin Games were "not implausible" and called for intensive talks about the advantages and disadvantages for both countries.

The East German city of Leipzig was also a possible Olympic candidate, he said.

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